POCKET EDITION
OF THE
NEW METROPOLITAN BUILDINGS ACT.
Just ready, a neat Pocket Edition of
THE NEW METROPOLITAN BUILDINGS ACT, together with a CYCLOPÆDIA, in which all the details of the Statute are arranged alphabetically, so as to be instantly found, and accompanied by extensive references and counter-references to the sections of the Act itself and its minute provisions.
By the late A. BARTHOLOMEW, Esq., F.S.A., Architect, Surveyor of the Hornsey District.
To the above volume will be appended a Folio Table of the Metropolitan Districts (old and new), and a List of the Surveyors, with their Residences and Offices.
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The Builder.

No. CXII.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1845.

THE present moment is one of considerable importance to builders and owners of house-property within the limits of the Metropolitan Buildings Act, insomuch as the amount of interference which may be expected on the part of district surveyors will probably be established by the first decisions of the official referees. The Act is unquestionably stringent; and, if acted on to the letter, and with a litigious spirit, will be deemed oppressive, and speedily become very unpopular. In the discharge of our duties, it will be incumbent on us to urge two things, to advocate, as it may seem, two opposing interests. While we shall have to say to builders and owners, comply strictly with the provisions of the Act, consider it, as it is, a measure for the general advantage which all are bound to assist in carrying out, we must urge on district surveyors the necessity for a lenient administration of it, and an attendance to the spirit of its provisions, rather than the word.

We are satisfied by decisions already given that the official referees desire this: it is to be hoped the surveyors will take the same wise view of the matter.

Section 13 provides that notice shall be given by the builder to the surveyor two days "before any party-wall, external-wall, chimney-stack, or flues, shall be begun to be built, pulled down, rebuilt, *cut into*, or altered," with a view to his attendance, for which, of course, a fee is to be paid. Now this, strictly speaking, would seem to prevent a man from letting in an iron air brick, for example, to his front or back wall, or making a hole for a bell-wire at the street door, without payment of a fee; but surely this is not the way in which the Act will be read, although we fear some of the surveyors think otherwise. The question of interference or not in matters of this sort will, however, be settled, as already remarked, by the first decisions of the official referees. Upon these, therefore, much will depend, and we shall endeavour as they occur to lay them before our readers for their guidance.

It becomes necessary for us to state, in consequence of the numerous comments and inquiries which followed our last publication, that we shall carefully avoid exposing individuals to annoyance by the mention of names in cases where no good can result from inserting them. Our main business is with the decisions themselves, and all must at once see that we are conferring a boon on our readers and the public by rendering them extensively known.

The referees have already made one important decision as regards what constitutes a commencement of a new building, so as to take it out of the Metropolitan Buildings Act. In answer to an application on this point made by Mr. Allen of the Rotherhithe district, they say, "We feel it necessary, having regard to the judicial capacity of the official referees who may be called upon to determine cases especially referred to them, not to signify our opinion as to the particular circumstances of any commencement without hearing the parties whose rights may be affected, but we may state briefly that we are of opinion that the commencement must be a *bonâ fide* one; and that our present impression is, that *the erection of the footings with two or more courses of the walls themselves built in a workman-like manner, is such a commencement.*

"As to the modes of erection which may be pursued with regard to buildings so commenced, we are of opinion that as to such buildings within the operation of the old Building Act (14 Geo. III. c. 78), they must be built according to the provisions of that Act, since these provisions, as to proceedings commenced or taken under that Act before the 1st of January, are not repealed; but we are of opinion that as to such buildings within the new districts, not within the operation of the old Act, the parties concerned are at liberty to pursue what course they please, so that the buildings are finished on the 1st of January, 1846."

Relative to streets, they have decided that "streets *formed after the passing of the Act*, must be built in conformity with the provisions of the Metropolitan Buildings Act—see sec. 52; and that the mere setting or laying out will not be sufficient to take them out of the Act.

"If parties are prejudiced by the enactment, they must seek relief under the 9th or 10th section."

Since the Act came into operation, the district surveyors have found much occupation for the referees and registrar, and will continue to do so for some time to come. It seems quite clear to us that the duties which devolve upon the official referees will be much more numerous and weighty than two gentlemen, however energetic and industrious they may be, will be able to discharge. If no notice be given by a builder, the referees are to be applied to; if any irregularity be committed, and is not remedied, the referees must interfere; all doubts, differences, and dissatisfaction must come before them; they are to settle all terms of qualification, and to say what is the meaning of good, sound, fire-proof, fit, proper, or sufficient. Buildings of a certain class they must themselves survey; they will be called on to settle the respective terms and interests of tenants and owners, to affix the rates and prices, according to which accounts for work and materials in party structures are to be made out; to survey in certain cases ruinous buildings, and do various other acts too numerous to mention now. They have issued a table of fees to be paid in respect of these services, which, at first sight, seem calculated to increase rather than diminish the number of cases submitted to them. We have the pleasure to place a copy of this table before our readers, but reserve our remarks upon it for a future occasion. It involves a matter of considerable importance to the profession at large.

TABLE OF FEES

To be paid to the Registrar of Metropolitan Buildings, in respect of the services to be performed by the Official Referees and by the said Registrar, in order to defray the expenses of the office, incident to such services, and the salaries of clerks, &c.

	£.	s.	d.
Awards.			
1. For every hearing—			
By one Official Referee	1	1	0
By one Official Referee and the Registrar	1	11	6
By two Official Referees and the Registrar	2	2	0
2. For every final award (according to the decision of the Official Referees in that behalf) from £1 1 0 to	21	0	0
Examinations or Taxing of Accounts of Charges referred.			
3. For every account examined, 1 per cent. on the amount of the account.			
4. For every measurement—			
If the work amount to 100*l.* or less, 2½ per cent.			
And for all above 100*l.*, 1½ per cent.			
Special Supervision of Buildings.			
5. For special supervision by the Official Referees of buildings subject to such supervision, and whether upon the original erection thereof, or upon any alteration involving structural arrangements, as follows:—			
If the building be of the extra first-rate	5	5	0
If the building be of the first-rate, of whatever class, or of the second-rate	3	3	0
If the building be of the third or fourth-rate	2	2	0
[The foregoing fees to include travelling expenses in all cases of supervision.]			
6. For every licence to use a building before the certificate of satisfaction has been granted (according to the rate of the building from £0 5 0 to	1	1	0
Surveys.			
7. For every survey (not connected with the special supervision of a building) by an Official Referee	1	1	0
8. For every survey by direction of the Official Referees, such fee as the Official Referees may authorize to be paid to the person employed to make the survey.			
Plans or Drawings.			
9. For preparing, making, verifying, tracing, or copying plans or drawings, such proper fee as may be charged by the person employed to make them, unless performed in the office, and then according to the schedule hereto annexed.			
Sanctions, Authorities, or Approvals as to Materials, &c., under the Rules of the Act.			
10. For every application for a certificate of authority, approval, or relaxation of any of the Rules of the Act, according to the provisions thereof (schedule C., parts 1, 4, 5; D., parts 2, 4; E.; F.)	0	5	0
11. For every such certificate	1	1	0
Modifications of the Rules.			
12. For every application to modify rules by the authority of her Majesty's Commissioners of Works and Buildings (besides the expenses of any survey) (s. 11) £1 1 0 to	2	2	0
13. For every order thereon by the Official Referees	0	10	6
Consents.			
14. For every application for consent to be given on behalf of absent, unknown, or incapacitated parties (s. 117)	0	5	0
(And if inquiry be involved, such further fees as are payable on an award.)			
15. For every confirmation of the surveyor's certificate as to works to which the adjoining owner does not consent (s. 24)	1	1	0
Copying and Examining.			
16. For copying, per folio, including paper and examination, and chargeable upon every document to be registered	0	0	6
Searches and Extracts.			
17. For every search—			
Indexes per volume	0	0	6
Awards and other documents per volume	0	0	6
18. For every extract or copy (per folio)	0	0	6
(Besides fee for tracing or copying any plan.)			
Travelling Expenses.			
19. For travelling expenses each way *per mile*—			
For each of the Official Referees and the Registrar (each)	0	1	3
For a clerk, surveyor, or other person (each)	0	0	10
[Travelling expenses are chargeable upon all matters requiring the presence of the Official Referees, or of the Registrar, or of any clerk, surveyor, or other person employed in or by the office.]			
Examinations and Certificates of Qualification.			
20. On lodging preliminary statement	2	2	0
21. On the grant of a certificate (s. 66)	3	3	0

SCHEDULE OF FEES PAYABLE FOR PLANS OR OTHER DRAWINGS INCIDENT TO THE SERVICES OF THE OFFICIAL REFEREES.—(See TABLE No. 9.)

No.	Description of Plans and other Drawings of Buildings.	Extra First Rate.	First Rate.	Second Rate.	Third Rate.	Fourth Rate.
	1. Taking and laying down Plans of Buildings.					
1	For taking the dimensions and laying down a general or ground-plan of a building, or any single section or elevation	3 13 6	2 12 6	2 2 0	1 11 6	1 1 0
2	For every additional plan of the same building	1 11 6	1 5 0	1 1 0	0 15 0	0 10 6
3	For every section or elevation in connection with and in addition to a general or ground-plan	2 10 0	1 15 0	1 10 0	1 1 0	0 15 0
	2. Verifying Plans of Buildings.					
4	For verifying the general or ground-plan of any building	2 2 0	1 11 6	1 5 0	1 1 0	0 12 0
5	For verifying any other plan, section, or elevation in connection with a plan	1 1 0	0 15 0	0 12 6	0 10 6	0 5 0
6	For verifying any section or elevation not in connection with a plan	2 2 0	1 11 6	1 5 0	1 1 0	0 12 0
	3. Making Plans, &c.					
7	For making any plan or other drawing of works required or permitted by the Official Referees	1 1 0	0 15 0	0 10 6	0 7 6	0 5 0
8	For every copy of any plan or other drawing of a building, if to the same scale	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 7 6	0 5 0	0 2 6
9	Ditto ditto if to any other than the same scale	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 10 6	0 7 6	0 5 0
	4. Sites, &c.					
10	For taking the dimensions and making a plan of any building-site connected with other buildings, if the area do not exceed 100 squares	....	....	....	....	1 1 0
11	For every additional 100 squares, or portion of a 100 squares	....	....	....	....	0 7 0
12	For surveying and plotting any proposed building-site or vacant ground, if not exceeding one acre	....	....	....	....	1 1 0
13	For surveying and plotting any proposed building-site or vacant ground, for every additional acre, or part of an acre	....	....	....	....	0 7 0
14	For making a copy of any plan of a building-site to the same scale	....	....	....	....	0 7 0
15	Ditto ditto to any other than the same scale	....	....	....	....	0 10 6
	5. Verifying Sites, &c.					
16	For verifying plans similar to item No. 10	....	....	....	....	0 15 0
17	Ditto ditto No. 11	....	....	....	....	0 7 6
18	Ditto ditto No. 12	....	....	....	....	0 15 0
19	Ditto ditto No. 13	....	....	....	....	0 7 6
	6. Levelling, &c.					
20	For measuring distances and taking levels, in connection with existing or proposed drainage:— If connected with any other plan of sites, either taken or verified by the office	....	....	....	....	0 10 6
	If independent of such plan	....	....	....	....	1 1 0
	7. Examining Duplicate Plans.					
21	For examining every plan or other drawing sent in duplicate	....	....	....	....	0 2 6

MR. COCKERELL'S SECOND LECTURE ON ARCHITECTURE.

ON Thursday, the 16th instant, Professor Cockerell delivered the Second Lecture of his course on Architecture, at the Royal Academy. He proposed, in the present lecture, to give a general survey of sacred architecture, from which the greatest advantage was to be derived, in a careful consideration of its principles and details. These were to be regarded as applied to plan, section, elevation, and decoration. The subject of the succeeding lectures was one of the noblest which could occupy the mind of man. Political history was of comparatively small interest, and pictured, in the greater part, the evil passions of mankind. The ordinary occupations and disappointments of life aroused melancholy emotions, but in architecture, man found scope for his lofty aspirations and idealities, and for his physical energies. There he perceived that he had a soul: order, calculation, beauty, and immortality were opened to his contemplation, and he seemed to feel the power of extending his works beyond the bounds of nature, and of time. Architecture required the exercise of an intelligence such as presented itself to the mind of Shakspeare in the words of Hamlet: —"What a piece of work is man! How noble in reason! how infinite in faculties! in form and moving, how express and admirable! in action, how like an angel! in apprehension, how like a god!"—Architecture invoked the display of physical prowess, which was the natural desire of man. Anaxagoras had asserted that the supremacy of man was owing rather to the powers of his hand, than to his head, and Sir Charles Bell had made the hand the subject of one of the Bridgwater Treatises. In the infancy of man, he contended with the forces of nature; he carved the rock, and reared the obelisk; in accumulating the masses in the pyramid, he emulated the works of Nature herself,—and, exulting in his acquired skill, exclaimed with the Babylonians: —"Go to, let us build a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto the heavens, and let us make us a name." And though we can afford to smile at such aimless labours, we must recollect that by them metallurgy, mechanics, and all the skill necessary in nobler works were first brought into practice. It was the natural sequence that in the age of Alexander and the Romans, art should be exerted in substantial benefits, and superior to the masses of Egypt, or to the delusion of beauty alone in Grecian architecture. Man at this period contended with the elements themselves. The ocean was curbed by his ports, and quays, and Pharos; marshes were drained; sewers, canals, aqueducts, and roads, displayed his mastery over Nature. Frontinus, whose work on aqueducts, written about the year 80, the professor had previously noticed, had a passage strongly illustrating the growth of this spirit. After giving an account of the nine aqueducts under his care, constructed at Rome at various periods, and amounting in length to about 142 miles, he said:—"With so many waters, and so many magnificent works necessary for their transport to this great city, will you compare the idle pyramids of Egypt, or even the inert works of the Greeks, however celebrated and glorious in history." In our day, architecture was contracted to absolute utilitarianism; all its powers being devoted to the perfection of the individual dwelling between party-walls, in which every citizen was in the enjoyment of luxuries and conveniences, unheard of in the days of the Pharoahs, the Medici, or the magnificent Louis the Fourteenth.

The professor now called the attention of the students to a number of plans of the most remarkable sacred edifices, constructed from the time of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, to the Christian era. It might be considered that objects of daily practice should be illustrated, rather than what were of rare occurrence, and of such vast scale and costliness, but we should remember, that Vitruvius laid down, that the architect's studies should be pursued "maxime in ædibus Deorum, in quibus operum laudes et culpæ æternæ solent permanere."

In discussing the form and proportions of temples, we held in veneration those noblest motives of the heart, which we recognize alike in the Grecian, the Druid, the Hindoo, and the Christian temple, and so finely expressed in the Book of Psalms. In excavating the foundations of the temple at Ægina, the remains of burnt woods and bones were discovered, mixed, doubtless, with tears and aspirations as warm as those of David;—at Selinus, the steps of one of the temples were worn down almost to an inclined plane by the devout.

The temple of Jupiter Capitolinus, which formerly stood upon the Capitoline Hill, was then noticed at length, and the fact pointed out, that during many successive ages, and re-edifications, the original plan was strictly adhered to; a remarkable instance of the force of religious prejudice in an edifice having so many points of distinction from coeval works. It was remarked as a coincidence, that many of these large temples approach 180 feet in front, the building under notice being 200 feet by 185 feet.

The plan was the most important consideration in a building; it gave evidence of the use and purpose of the structure and was addressed to the understanding, whilst, the elevation addressed the eye. The arrangement of the plan, should in all cases have precedence, which was the reverse of the ordinary mode. The plan was made to fit an elevation previously designed, and much variety of effect, which the ever-changing considerations of purpose and convenience might have suggested, was lost. We were deficient in books on the ichnographic part of architecture, though we had many on the orthographic. Sacred architecture was not only an antiquarian study, but one of immediate application, as it was quite certain, that the architecture of the Greeks and Romans would be the architecture of the whole civilized world. From the time of the Tabernacle to that of the Temple of Venus and Rome, we were struck with the uniformity of the plan. The plan was in all cases determined by the ritual, as it must be in every age. Vitruvius, who had been in so much unmerited disgrace, had given us the plans of the ancient temples; his omission of the peribolus was, however, a very remarkable one. In examining the sections of ancient temples, we felt a difficulty as to the size of the opening in such as were hypæthral: Mr. Cockerell's own opinion was, that only a small portion was uncovered.

The Roman temples were covered by a large continuous vault. This a late traveller had considered to have been of wood; but whether it was of wood or pumice-stone, it would necessarily have to be extremely light. In the orthographic design, the use of large stones made an important feature. The mention of "great stones" in the Book of Kings, shews that the Hebrews employed them, and, in fact, their use embodied the fundamental principle of building down to the Christian era. Towards the decline of the empire, when the vast resources of ancient Rome were no longer available, smaller stones were employed. Vitruvius had given us much information on the proportions of the orders, and his obscure parts were being cleared up. There was no reason why we should not now make the axes of our columns incline towards the building in obedience to his rules: the effect of our buildings in pyramidal outline would be vastly improved. Steps were always considered an integral part of the order by the Greeks; the podium or continous pedestal, was perhaps necessary in Rome, and in street achitecture generally. In the treatment of orders above orders, care should be taken that they should seem to grow one out of the other: in the portico of Buckingham-palace, a very bad effect resulted from the contrast between the rapid diminution of the Doric, and the more slender proportions of the Corinthian. The ornamental part of a building might be considered as general decoration, sculpture, and painting. We had heard much about the revival of polychromy, but he was of opinion, that although it might add great beauty to ancient buildings, which were seldom more than 60 or 80 feet in height, and which stood under a genial sky, the case was different in those which sometimes reached to several hundreds. The ornaments of ancient temples were all within the scope of the eye, and the smaller temples must often be considered as cabinet-works; the sculptor being a more important person than the architect, who only furnished the framework for his brother artist. The lines of the sculpture contrasted with the right lines of the architecture, to the improved effect of each. In the pediments, the sculpture often projected beyond the mouldings, breaking their lines; in the Parthenon, the horse's head hung over the cornice beneath. The effect of the figures in pediments was much improved by the smaller scale of those in the frieze. In concluding this section of his course, the professor paid a compliment to Mr. Pugin for the successful manner in which he had employed polychromy on the gate of Magdalen College, Oxford, which, he said, wanted only the effect of time to give it every thing to be desired.

THE PLAGUE OF WHITEWASH.

In this age of grasping at the future rather than contemplation of the past, the tardy, though highly meritorious efforts of modern antiquaries, have done comparatively little to check that course of spoliation, which bids fair speedily to overwhelm all our national antiquities. Every county in England is crowded with village churches at distances of one to two miles apart, and all of them contain matter of interest, whilst a very large proportion are full of the richest beauties of Gothic architecture.* But, to antiquary and to artist, how melancholy is the present aspect of each. The reformers and the puritans have inflicted less injury upon those noble works, than do the curiosity hunters, and the improving churchwardens of modern times. The reformation despoiled the altars, and plundered the vestments, the revolution defaced the carvings and the tombs: the fine open benches were raised and converted into pews, and the colours and gilding of the rood-screen obscured with an unmeaning white; the stove chimney was made to meander through the columns and arches of the church, and disappear through the ruthlessly broken tracery of a decorated window; the timbers of the roof were covered over with a flat ceiling, and the roof itself lowered from the original pitch. The squire erected his glazed room in the church, and made himself comfortable at "his own fireside," marring the exterior with an unsightly excrescence for a chimney. The sexton stole the brasses, and an "antiquary" purchased them. The antiquary stocked his collection with stained-glass; the country squire worked up the panels from a rood-screen in his sideboard. All these and many more were the acts of robbery and spoliation common and uncared for once, and not enough noticed now. But worse than the plunder and havoc of mistaken zealots, worse than ruin and the alterations of ignorant churchwardens, is the plague of whitewash, which seems to have grasped, Briareus-like, on cathedral and parish church in every hole and corner of the kingdom, spreading its leprosy over plain surface and moulding, stone-carving and wood panelling, and obscuring mural paintings, colour, and gilding. The infection is not destroyed, and men will never be convinced that it is better to let the tooth of time eat its way into corbel and boss—rather adding new beauties than consuming old—than to mar the contour of a moulding, or to clog up the indents of a leaf. The very extent of effort in those to whom the country allows the guardianship of our national monuments is the making them look clean, *i.e.*, white. The greens and browns from Nature's palette, are hidden beauties to those who deem the bucket and mop the true instruments of taste, and a whitewashed cottage the brightest ornament in a landscape. The noble interiors of Beverley Minster, of York, and of our other cathedrals, when compared with the nave of Westminster Abbey, whose columns retain their natural tints, lack much of the beauty which the latter possesses, despite the eye-sores on its walls. Rochester Cathedral was rich in mural decoration, yet it has been all obscured. At Chester, which we visited very few years since, we had, as usual, occasion to notice the ill effects of whitewash, and we ventured to express our opinion to one of the dignitaries of the cathedral, who concurred with us; yet we subsequently discovered, that he himself had not long previous given directions for an additional coat. The fine Norman doorway of the Temple Church was no sooner rid of its accumulated whitewash than it received another application. At St. Albans, St. Cuthbert's screen, rich in flowers and foliage, has all its beauty obliterated or destroyed. The clerk of the church, an intelligent man, and probably remembered by many of our readers, has taken some pains to clear a portion of this screen, and the delicacy of the carving is there apparent. At St. Mary's Church, Stafford, we were present during a portion of the late restorations, and saw the workmen remove the whitewash from some capitals, and found, that shapeless lumps concealed foliage of elegant design, having traces of painting. St. Peter's, Northampton, till a few years ago, seemed destitute of ornament; the capitals of its columns were mere lumps, and the whole interior devoid of beauty; fortunately the state of the building attracted the attention of Miss Baker, the sister of the historian of Northamptonshire, who, at some expense, and, it is said, considerable personal labour, had the capitals freed from their covering, and they now form the most beautiful series in Anglo-Norman architecture. Haddon Hall, in Derbyshire, a perfect example of an old English residence, is preserved in its original state in all respects except the application of whitewash. The figures in relief, the ceilings, and ornaments formerly enriched with painting and gilding, periodically approach a step nearer to entire concealment. St. Paul's itself has not escaped, and the absence of the natural tints makes more than ever apparent the want of artificial colour, and revives our regret that so good an opportunity as was once available should have been lost. The colouring, in parts of Gothic churches, was a valuable instrument in the hands of the artists of the middle ages; it was applied with judgment and effect, was mostly upon plain surface, and impaired the form of neither moulding nor ornament; but the first coat of *whitewash* shews, like the last of Banquo's line, a mirror in which we see a long succession following after. Individual buildings there may be that have suffered little, and others which, within the last few years, have been entirely freed from whitewash, and the beauty of these is great; but we are certain that were the whole of our churches divested of what shrouds them as completely as the lava of Vesuvius did Pompeii and Herculaneum, the splendour of Gothic architecture would at once strike upon the beholder with a witchery and a power hardly felt even in these days of restoration and research. Let us hope for the speedy establishment of a national commission for the preservation of works of art, and that one of its earliest endeavours will be in the direction pointed out. A tithe even of the small sum we devote to public works would serve to uphold what we now possess, valuable to an extent we have never felt, and hourly crumbling away beyond the hope of renewal.*

E. H.

* We intend to revert to the subject of village churches, and we shall be glad if our friends in the country will favour us with sketches and measurements, or any information as to the present state of fabrics.—Ed.

COMPETITION OUTLINES FOR ART-UNION OF LONDON.

The nineteen sets of designs received by the committee in reply to their offered premium of 60*l.*, were in illustration of the following subjects:—The life of Offa, king of the East Angles; Midsummer Night's Dream; Thalaba the Destroyer; Parables; Revelations of St. John; the Watchfulness of Providence; the Rape of the Lock; Keat's Hyperion; the Commandments; Harold the Dauntless; Anne of Gierstein; the History of Joseph; Raising of Jairus's Daughter; Scott's Betrothed; Judgment of God against Sin; John Gilpin; Byron's Mystery; Life of Brutus; and Cymbeline.

After long deliberation, the committee selected the set illustrative of the Revelations of St. John, afterwards found to be by Mr. George Elgar Hicks, Lymington, Hampshire, as most fully complying with the terms of their advertisement, and awarded the premium to the author of it. Considering that much talent was displayed by some of the competitors, and anxious to stimulate young artists to exertion, they awarded honorary premiums of 20*l.* each to the authors of the three following sets:—Offa; the Watchfulness of Providence; and the Commandments; who were found to be respectively Mr. G. E. Sintzenick, of 3, Princes-street, Fitzroy-square; Mr. William Cave Thomas, of 39, London-street, Fitzroy-square; and Mr. G. Scharf, jun., of 14, Francis-street, Bedford-square. Mr. Hicks obtained the Royal Academy medal at the last distribution of prizes; and Mr. Cave Thomas is one of the artists selected by the Fine Arts' Commissioners for the decoration of the new Houses of Parliament. Amongst the most meritorious of the other designs we may mention the series from the History of Joseph; Byron's Mystery; and Thalaba.

* We have long felt the need of a national commission for the preservation of monuments, and shall take every opportunity of advocating its establishment. We shall be glad to receive communications on the best mode of cleaning paintings in distemper.—Ed.

A CHAPTER ON MARBLE.

Marble, *marbre* French, *marmor* Latin, from the Greek μαρμαιρω, to shine or glitter, is a term used to define numerous varieties of compact and granular limestone, which are susceptible of a superior polish, and are denominated either from their colour, their age, their grain, their country or district, their degree of hardness, their weight or their defects. The general characters are,—large or small-grained, generally in distinct concretions, sometimes so fine-grained as to appear compact, and often only distinguishable by a glimmering lustre. Fracture, foliated; fragments, amorphous, blunt; weight, granitose; lustre, from glimmering to shining, between pearly and vitreous, sometimes translucent, but the black only on the edges. It consists chiefly of 50 lime and 40 carbonic acid, whence it is called by chemists and mineralogists a carbonate of lime, to which class in all strictness it belongs.

Marbles are distinguished from gypsums by the application of diluted nitric or muriatic acid, which produces a strong effervescence, by expelling the carbonic acid; but otherwise, in external character, organic disposition, and capability of polish, there is a striking similitude between many varieties of each. They embrace every degree of hardness, and the specific gravity of marble varies with its density and crystalline structure. Some of them are of one simple colour, as white or black, others streaked, or variegated with stains, clouds, veins, waves, &c., but almost all are opaque, excepting the white, which, when cut in thin slices, becomes transparent.

Of the endless varieties of marbles abounding in almost every region of the earth, vast formations, in like manner with the simple limestones, retain the evidences of organic character and composition, being crystalline masses of marine animals, and embracing, in some few instances, the bones of land animals and fresh-water shells; in almost all of them we see a certain advance towards decomposition; while in other and perhaps the more extensive beds, every trace of organization is extinguished. Geologists, on this account, have classed them as primary and secondary rocks, presuming that the absence of organic delineation denotes the more advanced age; but most erroneously so, for the preservation or decay of organic masses of calcareous animals depends more upon climate and association than upon age, and very often the same formation presents the two characteristics of this class of rock.

Again, geology infers that marble is formed from masses cooling down under intense lateral pressure, but were this the case, every trace of animal organization must have been destroyed, and the crystalline appearance would have been uniform; but so far from there being any evidence of heat or fusion, or lateral pressure, much of the coralloide and shell-marble rests in its primary undisturbed state, the shells and corals exhibiting the uninjured outline, and so disposed as to exhibit an uninterrupted series of natural events, embracing in the one whole an epoch which has long since passed away. The existence of these organic masses in their pristine form, and disposed in spots where they formerly lived, propagated in their generations and died, and now their calcareous, concrete, and crystalline states, evidence the small amount of faith the student ought to place in modern classification and modern theories: a classification which pronounces all crystalline rocks volcanic; theories which assign various epochs to rocks and earths which are manifestly formed under the same existing causes, and at the same period of time.

Among the most remarkable varieties of marble may be mentioned the *African*, having a black ground diversified with moderately large spots, sometimes tinged a little reddish; *Alabandum marmor*, much used in building among the Romans, and distinguished by its remarkable glossy jet-black appearance; *Auvergne marble*, of a pale red mingled with violet, green, and yellow; *Brocatello*, of a fine bright yellow colour, thickly variegated with irregular veins and spots of purple, and spots or spaces of fine semi-pellucid crystalline spar—this is a truly beautiful marble, equal in polish to the finest agate; *Carnaggione marble*, so called from its flesh colour, exhibiting shades of pale whitish and yellowish casts, and also of a rosy hue; *Cippolino*, the true Egyptian

SCHEDULE OF FEES PAYABLE FOR PLANS OR OTHER DRAWINGS INCIDENT TO THE SERVICES OF THE OFFICIAL REFEREES.—(See TABLE No. 9.)

No.	DESCRIPTION OF PLANS AND OTHER DRAWINGS OF BUILDINGS.	Extra First Rate.	First Rate.	Second Rate.	Third Rate.	Fourth Rate.
	1. *Taking and laying down Plans of Buildings.*					
1	For taking the dimensions and laying down a general or ground-plan of a building, or any single section or elevation	3 13 6	2 12 6	2 2 0	1 11 6	1 1 0
2	For every additional plan of the same building	1 11 6	1 5 0	1 1 0	0 15 0	0 10 6
3	For every section or elevation in connection with and in addition to a general or ground-plan	2 10 0	1 15 0	1 10 0	1 1 0	0 15 0
	2. *Verifying Plans of Buildings.*					
4	For verifying the general or ground-plan of any building	2 2 0	1 11 6	1 5 0	1 1 0	0 12 0
5	For verifying any other plan, section, or elevation in connection with a plan	1 1 0	0 15 0	0 12 6	0 10 6	0 5 0
6	For verifying any section or elevation not in connection with a plan	2 2 0	1 11 6	1 5 0	1 1 0	0 12 0
	3. *Making Plans, &c.*					
7	For making any plan or other drawing of works required or permitted by the Official Referees	1 1 0	0 15 0	0 10 6	0 7 6	0 5 0
8	For every copy of any plan or other drawing of a building, if to the same scale	0 10 6	0 10 6	0 7 6	0 5 0	0 2 6
9	Ditto ditto if to any other than the same scale	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 10 6	0 7 6	0 5 0
	4. *Sites, &c.*					
10	For taking the dimensions and making a plan of any building-site connected with other buildings, if the area do not exceed 100 squares	....	....	....	....	1 1 0
11	For every additional 100 squares, or portion of a 100 squares	....	....	....	....	0 7 0
12	For surveying and plotting any proposed building-site or vacant ground, if not exceeding one acre	....	....	....	....	1 1 0
13	For surveying and plotting any proposed building-site or vacant ground, for every additional acre, or part of an acre	....	....	....	....	0 7 0
14	For making a copy of any plan of a building-site to the same scale	....	....	....	....	0 7 0
15	Ditto ditto to any other than the same scale	....	....	....	....	0 10 6
	5. *Verifying Sites, &c.*					
16	For verifying plans similar to item No. 10	....	....	....	....	0 15 0
17	Ditto ditto No. 11	....	....	....	....	0 7 6
18	Ditto ditto No. 12	....	....	....	....	0 15 0
19	Ditto ditto No. 13	....	....	....	....	0 7 6
	6. *Levelling, &c.*					
20	For measuring distances and taking levels, in connection with existing or proposed drainage:—					
	If connected with any other plan of sites, either taken or verified by the office	....	....	....	....	0 10 6
	If independent of such plan	....	....	....	....	1 1 0
	7. *Examining Duplicate Plans.*					
21	For examining every plan or other drawing sent in duplicate	....	....	....	....	0 2 6

MR. COCKERELL'S SECOND LECTURE ON ARCHITECTURE.

ON Thursday, the 16th instant, Professor Cockerell delivered the Second Lecture of his course on Architecture, at the Royal Academy. He proposed, in the present lecture, to give a general survey of sacred architecture, from which the greatest advantage was to be derived, in a careful consideration of its principles and details. These were to be regarded as applied to plan, section, elevation, and decoration. The subject of the succeeding lectures was one of the noblest which could occupy the mind of man. Political history was of comparatively small interest, and pictured, in the greater part, the evil passions of mankind. The ordinary occupations and disappointments of life aroused melancholy emotions, but in architecture, man found scope for his lofty aspirations and idealities, and for his physical energies. There he perceived that he had a soul: order, calculation, beauty, and immortality were opened to his contemplation, and he seemed to feel the power of extending his works beyond the bounds of nature, and of time. Architecture required the exercise of an intelligence such as presented itself to the mind of Shakspeare in the words of Hamlet: —"What a piece of work is man! How noble in reason! how infinite in faculties! in form and moving, how express and admirable! in action, how like an angel! in apprehension, how like a god!"—Architecture invoked the display of physical prowess, which was the natural desire of man. Anaxagoras had asserted that the supremacy of man was owing rather to the powers of his hand, than to his head, and Sir Charles Bell had made the hand the subject of one of the Bridgwater Treatises. In the infancy of man, he contended with the forces of nature; he carved the rock, and reared the obelisk; in accumulating the masses in the pyramid, he emulated the works of Nature herself,—and, exulting in his acquired skill, exclaimed with the Babylonians: —"Go to, let us build a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto the heavens, and let us make us a name." And though we can afford to smile at such aimless labours, we must recollect that by them metallurgy, mechanics, and all the skill necessary in nobler works were first brought into practice. It was the natural sequence that in the age of Alexander and the Romans, art should be exerted in substantial benefits, and superior to the masses of Egypt, or to the delusion of beauty alone in Grecian architecture. Man at this period contended with the elements themselves. The ocean was curbed by his ports, and quays, and Pharos; marshes were drained; sewers, canals, aqueducts, and roads, displayed his mastery over Nature. Frontinus, whose work on aqueducts, written about the year 80, the professor had previously noticed, had a passage strongly illustrating the growth of this spirit. After giving an account of the nine aqueducts under his care, constructed at Rome at various periods, and amounting in length to about 142 miles, he said:—"With so many waters, and so many magnificent works necessary for their transport to this great city, will you compare the idle pyramids of Egypt, or even the inert works of the Greeks, however celebrated and glorious in history." In our day, architecture was contracted to absolute utilitarianism; all its powers being devoted to the perfection of the individual dwelling between party-walls, in which every citizen was in the enjoyment of luxuries and conveniences, unheard of in the days of the Pharoahs, the Medici, or the magnificent Louis the Fourteenth.

The professor now called the attention of the students to a number of plans of the most remarkable sacred edifices, constructed from the time of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, to the Christian era. It might be considered that objects of daily practice should be illustrated, rather than what were of rare occurrence, and of such vast scale and costliness, but we should remember, that Vitruvius laid down, that the architect's studies should be pursued "maxime in ædibus Deorum, in quibus operum laudes et culpæ æternæ solent permanere."

In discussing the form and proportions of temples, we held in veneration those noblest motives of the heart, which we recognize alike in the Grecian, the Druid, the Hindoo, and the Christian temple, and so finely expressed in the Book of Psalms. In excavating the foundations of the temple at Ægina, the remains of burnt woods and bones were discovered, mixed, doubtless, with tears and aspirations as warm as those of David;—at Selinus, the steps of one of the temples were worn down almost to an inclined plane by the devout.

The temple of Jupiter Capitolinus, which formerly stood upon the Capitoline Hill, was then noticed at length, and the fact pointed out, that during many successive ages, and re-edifications, the original plan was strictly adhered to; a remarkable instance of the force of religious prejudice in an edifice having so many points of distinction from coeval works. It was remarked as a coincidence, that many of these large temples approach 180 feet in front, the building under notice being 200 feet by 185 feet.

The plan was the most important consideration in a building; it gave evidence of the use and purpose of the structure and was addressed to the understanding, whilst, the elevation addressed the eye. The arrangement of the plan, shoul d in all cases have precedence, which was the reverse of the ordinary mode. The plan was made to fit an elevation previously designed, and much variety of effect, which the ever-changing considerations of purpose and convenience might have suggested, was lost. We were deficient in books on the ichnographic part of architecture, though we had many on the orthographic. Sacred architecture was not only an antiquarian study, but one of immediate application, as it was quite certain, that the architecture of the Greeks and Romans would be the architecture of the whole civilized world. From the time of the Tabernacle to that of the Temple of Venus and Rome, we were struck with the uniformity of the plan. The plan was in all cases determined by the ritual, as it must be in every age. Vitruvius, who had been in so much unmerited disgrace, had given us the plans of the ancient temples; his omission of the peribolus was, however, a very remarkable one. In examining the sections of ancient temples, we felt a difficulty as to the size of the opening in such as were hypæthral: Mr. Cockerell's own opinion was, that only a small portion was uncovered.

The Roman temples were covered by a large continuous vault. This a late traveller had considered to have been of wood; but whether it was of wood or pumice-stone, it would necessarily have to be extremely light. In the orthographic design, the use of large stones made an important feature. The mention of "great stones" in the Book of Kings, shews that the Hebrews employed them, and, in fact, their use embodied the fundamental principle of building down to the Christian era. Towards the decline of the empire, when the vast resources of ancient Rome were no longer available, smaller stones were employed. Vitruvius had given us much information on the proportions of the orders, and his obscure parts were being cleared up. There was no reason why we should not now make the axes of our columns incline towards the building in obedience to his rules: the effect of our buildings in pyramidal outline would be vastly improved. Steps were always considered an integral part of the order by the Greeks; the podium or continous pedestal, was perhaps necessary in Rome, and in street achitecture generally. In the treatment of orders above orders, care should be taken that they should seem to grow one out of the other: in the portico of Buckingham-palace, a very bad effect resulted from the contrast between the rapid diminution of the Doric, and the more slender proportions of the Corinthian. The ornamental part of a building might be considered as general decoration, sculpture, and painting. We had heard much about the revival of polychromy, but he was of opinion, that although it might add great beauty to ancient buildings, which were seldom more than 60 or 80 feet in height, and which stood under a genial sky, the case was different in those which sometimes reached to several hundreds. The ornaments of ancient temples were all within the scope of the eye, and the smaller temples must often be considered as cabinet-works; the sculptor being a more important person than the architect, who only furnished the framework for his brother artist. The lines of the sculpture contrasted with the right lines of the architecture, to the improved effect of each. In the pediments, the sculpture often projected beyond the mouldings, breaking their lines; in the Parthenon, the horse's head hung over the cornice beneath. The effect of the figures in pediments was much improved by the smaller scale of those in the frieze. In concluding this section of his course, the professor paid a compliment to Mr. Pugin for the successful manner in which he had employed polychromy on the gate of Magdalen College, Oxford, which, he said, wanted only the effect of time to give it every thing to be desired.

THE PLAGUE OF WHITEWASH.

In this age of grasping at the future rather than contemplation of the past, the tardy, though highly meritorious efforts of modern antiquaries, have done comparatively little to check that course of spoliation, which bids fair speedily to overwhelm all our national antiquities. Every county in England is crowded with village churches at distances of one to two miles apart, and all of them contain matter of interest, whilst a very large proportion are full of the richest beauties of Gothic architecture.* But, to antiquary and to artist, how melancholy is the present aspect of each. The reformers and the puritans have inflicted less injury upon those noble works, than do the curiosity hunters, and the improving churchwardens of modern times. The reformation despoiled the altars, and plundered the vestments, the revolution defaced the carvings and the tombs: the fine open benches were raised and converted into pews, and the colours and gilding of the rood-screen obscured with an unmeaning white; the stove chimney was made to meander through the columns and arches of the church, and disappear through the ruthlessly broken tracery of a decorated window; the timbers of the roof were covered over with a flat ceiling, and the roof itself lowered from the original pitch. The squire erected his glazed room in the church, and made himself comfortable at "his own fireside," marring the exterior with an unsightly excrescence for a chimney. The sexton stole the brasses, and an "antiquary" purchased them. The antiquary stocked his collection with stained-glass; the country squire worked up the panels from a rood-screen in his sideboard. All these and many more were the acts of robbery and spoliation common and uncared for once, and not enough noticed now. But worse than the plunder and havoc of mistaken zealots, worse than ruin and the alterations of ignorant churchwardens, is the plague of whitewash, which seems to have grasped, Briareus-like, on cathedral and parish church in every hole and corner of the kingdom, spreading its leprosy over plain surface and moulding, stone-carving and wood panelling, and obscuring mural paintings, colour, and gilding. The infection is not destroyed, and men will never be convinced that it is better to let the tooth of time eat its way into corbel and boss—rather adding new beauties than consuming old—than to mar the contour of a moulding, or to clog up the indents of a leaf. The very extent of effort in those to whom the country allows the guardianship of our national monuments is the making them look clean, *i.e.*, white. The greens and browns from Nature's palette, are hidden beauties to those who deem the bucket and mop the true instruments of taste, and a whitewashed cottage the brightest ornament in a landscape. The noble interiors of Beverley Minster, of York, and of our other cathedrals, when compared with the nave of Westminster Abbey, whose columns retain their natural tints, lack much of the beauty which the latter possesses, despite the eye-sores on its walls. Rochester Cathedral was rich in mural decoration, yet it has been all obscured. At Chester, which we visited very few years since, we had, as usual, occasion to notice the ill effects of whitewash, and we ventured to express our opinion to one of the dignitaries of the cathedral, who concurred with us; yet we subsequently discovered, that he himself had not long previous given directions for an additional coat. The fine Norman doorway of the Temple Church was no sooner rid of its accumulated whitewash than it received another application. At St. Albans, St. Cuthbert's screen, rich in flowers and foliage, has all its beauty obliterated or destroyed. The clerk of the church, an intelligent man, and probably remembered by many of our readers, has taken some pains to clear a portion of this screen, and the delicacy of the carving is there apparent. At St. Mary's Church, Stafford, we were present during a portion of the late restorations, and saw the workmen remove the whitewash from some capitals, and found, that shapeless lumps concealed foliage of elegant design, having traces of painting. St. Peter's, Northampton, till a few years ago, seemed destitute of ornament; the capitals of its columns were mere lumps, and the whole interior devoid of beauty; fortunately the state of the building attracted the attention of Miss Baker, the sister of the historian of Northamptonshire, who, at some expense, and, it is said, considerable personal labour, had the capitals freed from their covering, and they now form the most beautiful series in Anglo-Norman architecture. Haddon Hall, in Derbyshire, a perfect example of an old English residence, is preserved in its original state in all respects except the application of whitewash. The figures in relief, the ceilings, and ornaments formerly enriched with painting and gilding, periodically approach a step nearer to entire concealment. St. Paul's itself has not escaped, and the absence of the natural tints makes more than ever apparent the want of artificial colour, and revives our regret that so good an opportunity as was once available should have been lost. The colouring, in parts of Gothic churches, was a valuable instrument in the hands of the artists of the middle ages; it was applied with judgment and effect, was mostly upon plain surface, and impaired the form of neither moulding nor ornament; but the first coat of *whitewash* shews, like the last of Banquo's line, a mirror in which we see a long succession following after. Individual buildings there may be that have suffered little, and others which, within the last few years, have been entirely freed from whitewash, and the beauty of these is great; but we are certain that were the whole of our churches divested of what shrouds them as completely as the lava of Vesuvius did Pompeii and Herculaneum, the splendour of Gothic architecture would at once strike upon the beholder with a witchery and a power hardly felt even in these days of restoration and research. Let us hope for the speedy establishment of a national commission for the preservation of works of art, and that one of its earliest endeavours will be in the direction pointed out. A tithe even of the small sum we devote to public works would serve to uphold what we now possess, valuable to an extent we have never felt, and hourly crumbling away beyond the hope of renewal.*

E. H.

* We intend to revert to the subject of village churches, and we shall be glad if our friends in the country will favour us with sketches and measurements, or any information as to the present state of fabrics.—Ed.

COMPETITION OUTLINES FOR ART-UNION OF LONDON.

The nineteen sets of designs received by the committee in reply to their offered premium of 60*l.*, were in illustration of the following subjects:—The life of Offa, king of the East Angles; Midsummer Night's Dream; Thalaba the Destroyer; Parables; Revelations of St. John; the Watchfulness of Providence; the Rape of the Lock; Keat's Hyperion; the Commandments; Harold the Dauntless; Anne of Gierstein; the History of Joseph; Raising of Jairus's Daughter; Scott's Betrothed; Judgment of God against Sin; John Gilpin; Byron's Mystery; Life of Brutus; and Cymbeline.

After long deliberation, the committee selected the set illustrative of the Revelations of St. John, afterwards found to be by Mr. George Elgar Hicks, Lymington, Hampshire, as most fully complying with the terms of their advertisement, and awarded the premium to the author of it. Considering that much talent was displayed by some of the competitors, and anxious to stimulate young artists to exertion, they awarded honorary premiums of 20*l.* each to the authors of the three following sets:—Offa; the Watchfulness of Providence; and the Commandments; who were found to be respectively Mr. G. E. Sintzenick, of 3, Princes-street, Fitzroy-square; Mr. William Cave Thomas, of 39, London-street, Fitzroy-square; and Mr. G. Scharf, jun., of 14, Francis-street, Bedford-square. Mr. Hicks obtained the Royal Academy medal at the last distribution of prizes; and Mr. Cave Thomas is one of the artists selected by the Fine Arts' Commissioners for the decoration of the new Houses of Parliament. Amongst the most meritorious of the other designs we may mention the series from the History of Joseph; Byron's Mystery; and Thalaba.

* We have long felt the need of a national commission for the preservation of monuments, and shall take every opportunity of advocating its establishment. We shall be glad to receive communications on the best mode of cleaning paintings in distemper.—Ed.

A CHAPTER ON MARBLE.

Marble, *marbre* French, *marmor* Latin, from the Greek μαρμαιρω, to shine or glitter, is a term used to define numerous varieties of compact and granular limestone, which are susceptible of a superior polish, and are denominated either from their colour, their age, their grain, their country or district, their degree of hardness, their weight or their defects. The general characters are,—large or small-grained, generally in distinct concretions, sometimes so fine-grained as to appear compact, and often only distinguishable by a glimmering lustre. Fracture, foliated; fragments, amorphous, blunt; weight, granitose; lustre, from glimmering to shining, between pearly and vitreous, sometimes translucent, but the black only on the edges. It consists chiefly of 50 lime and 40 carbonic acid, whence it is called by chemists and mineralogists a carbonate of lime, to which class in all strictness it belongs.

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marble, of a sea-green colour, mixed with large waves or clouds of white or pale green, the same with that which the ancients called *Agustum* and *Tiberium marmor*.

Coralloide marble; of this there are numerous varieties, and in great abundance in almost all countries; in this country we have principally two in use, one grayish black, the other jet black. The first is found in many parts of Derbyshire, and the corals it contains are of the porous kind, and of the most elegant species in the world; they are lodged in it at all angles and in all directions, and are in general about one inch and a half long and three-quarters of an inch broad; they are composed of longitudinal plates, very fine and thin, and of a snow-white, ranged in distinct orders, and finely interspersed at small distances with their transverse plates, the whole internal part of the coral being thus divided into a sort of square cells. This net-like division runs through about three-fourths of the body, but the top has only the longitudinal plates without the transverse ones. It is a very beautiful substance, and abounds in Derbyshire and Wales.

The other species is an equally beautiful compact substance; fine, even texture, very hard, of a deep jet black, and capable of a very high polish. It is elegantly variegated with species similar to the above, but smaller, and of a less elegant texture; and among these has usually a great number of sea shells, both turburated and bivalve, the corals and shells being of a pure snow-white.

There is another marble common to Derbyshire, Dorsetshire, Sussex, and many other parts of England, of a green colour, and thick set with marine shells, and is what the pillars of many of our cathedrals are made of. We have in England vast quarries of marble abounding with marine shells.

The varieties of marble in England are numerous and exceedingly diversified, and many of them perfectly adapted for all the purposes of architecture. The green marble of Anglesea is much like the *verde antico;* its colours are greenish black, leek green, and sometimes dull purple, irregularly blended with white limestone, the green shades being owing to the presence of magnesia; it is an elegant marble, but apt to be internated by small cracks, and has a variable polish.

Derbyshire abounds with several fine varieties of marble, particularly such as is composed of concrete masses of marine shells and petrifactions; excellent black marble is found at Ashford, Matlock, and Monsaldah. In North Devon, marble is still more abundant and diversified; there are varieties of black and white from Bridestow, South Tawton, Drewsteignton. Some of the Chudley, Staverton, and Berry pomeroy marbles have a black ground, with large veins of calcareous spar traversing it in all directions. The variegated marbles are generally reddish, brownish, and grayish, variously veined with white and yellow, and the colours are often intimately blended; the Plymouth marble is principally of two sorts, one ash colour shaded with black veins, the other blackish gray and white, shaded in concentric spots interspersed with irregular red spots.

The cliffs near Marychurch, says Polwhele, exhibit marble not only of great extent, but of superior beauty to any other in Devonshire, being for the most part either of a dove-coloured ground with reddish purple and yellow veins, or of a black ground mottled with purplish globules. In a valley below the cliff, about 400 yards wide, there are loose unconnected rocks of this marble, owing their situation probably to the falling down of the ground into the sea; for there are very large rocks even on the beach. The huge fragments of rock scattered over the valley, by which we easily descend to the sea, give it a grotesque appearance, and have been whimsically called a petrified congregation; and the pleasantry of this fancy has been heightened by a rock, supposed to be about forty tons, in a very erect position, which has been ludicrously enough entitled "the Parson."

The Petworth marble was formerly most employed; it is a fossil concrete of marine and fresh-water shells, some of which are filled with spar, and add greatly to the beauty of the stone. The slender round pillars of the Abbey Church in Westminster, and of the Temple Church, are of this sort of marble: so likewise are those of the Cathedral Church at Salisbury.

France is very rich in marbles. The Romans availed themselves of this stone in their monuments at Nimes, Aix, Arles, Orange, Vienne, &c. During the middle ages the quarries were abandoned, and recourse was had to Spain, Italy, and the East. In the internal decorations of the Louvre and the Tuilleries, Louis XIV. availed himself of French marbles. They were little used after his time up to the present century; latterly, abundance of every variety and colour has been found, and suited to all purposes except statuary. The marble of St. Beax, on the banks of the Garonne, is the best marble used in French sculpture, and this is a very indifferent one, being dirty white, and rapidly decaying on exposure to the atmosphere.*

The variety called *marbre de Languedoc*, or *de Sainte Baume*, is of a fiery red, with white and gray stones formed of madrepores. The eight columns which adorn the triumphal arch in the Carousel at Paris are of this marble, which was formerly only employed for the decoration of royal palaces. The neighbourhood of Narbonne furnishes several valuable marbles, among others a shell marble of an intensely black colour, with white belemnites, and a purple marble with yellow spots, &c.

One of the most esteemed varieties of French marble is that called *griotte;* its colour is a deep brown, with blood-red oval spots, produced by shells. Some of the ornaments of the triumphal arch of the Carousel are made of griotte, and it is extensively used in decorating public monuments and splendid furniture. Madraporic marble is common in the department of Jemappes. The beautiful bridge of Namours is constructed of an elegant marble termed *Chateau London*, of a very pale yellow, containing small, unconspicuous shells and white translucid veins.

The *Rovigio* marble, found at Padua, is used for architectural purposes. The *occhio di pavone* is formed of concrete masses of shells which form large orbicular spots, red, white, and blueish. According to Da Costa, the peacock's eye is of a bright cucumber colour, with spots and veins of milk-white spar; many of the spots, forming circles about the size of a sixpence, are filled with a red ground. *Pietra stellaria*, much employed in Italy, is entirely composed of star madrepores, converted into a grayish and white substance. Baron Bord in his "Sicilian Mineralogy," describes upwards of a hundred varieties; the most valuable of these is that denominated Sicilian jasper by English stone-cutters; it is red with large stripes like ribbons, white, red, and sometimes green, which here and there revolve, forming petty acute angles.

Spain abounds with marbles of every variety. A mountain entirely composed of beautiful marbles exists at the distance of three leagues from San Felipe, and the Tagus takes its course through hills of marble, which also constitute its bed. The abundance of this material led to its extensive use even so far back as the time of the Romans; and the monuments of antiquity, those of the middle ages and of modern times, are profusely decorated with indigenous marbles. The vault of the beautiful theatre of Toledo is supported by 350 marble columns. The mosque of Cordova, erected by Caliph Abdoulrahmin III., is ornamented with 1,200 columns, most of which are of Spanish marble. Among the ruins of ancient Merida, built 28 years B.C., fragments of the most beautiful marbles are still discovered. The church of the Escurial, the principal churches in Madrid, the palace, &c., are all decorated with the most beautiful marbles.

The milk-white marble of Cordova is adapted for sculpture. One of the most celebrated marbles is the *broccatello:* its chief colour is claret red, variegated with numerous small spots and points of isabell-yellow, yellowish gray, and a translucent white.

The marbles of Germany are very numerous. Carinthia possesses the most beautiful of all shell-marbles, viz. that of Bleyberg, called *fire marble*, or *opalescent lumachella*. It abounds with the opalescent fragments of a species of nautilus, here and there disseminated in its mass, reflecting tints of red, green, and blue, of considerable intensity; it seldom exists in layers.

The statuary marble of the ancients was principally Parian marble, so called from its coming from the island of Paros in the Grecian Archipelago, although it is well ascertained that several other islands, as Neupos, Tenos, &c., in that sea, afford similar marble. Carrara marble was also used by the ancients, and is the choice material of modern sculptors. To fit a marble for statuary, it should be highly crystalline, and yet with a fine grain; it should be perfectly white, entirely free from flaws and from foreign minerals, and should be very compact. The American Washington and New Milford marble answers very well to these qualities.

Statuary marble is exceedingly durable when favoured by climate or association, although far from being a hard stone. Hence, says Patrin, it is sought for, for the construction of the most sumptuous edifices, and of monuments which are intended to be at once magnificent and durable. "Marble is one of the least destructible materials; of this we have a proof in those precious statues, which are the eternal monument of the genius of the artists of ancient Greece. They have supported the injuries of twenty centuries, while the scythe of Time has been made harmless by the brilliant polish of their surface.

H. G. Montague.

* The principal deposits of marble now wrought are those of High and Low Pyrenees, the High Garonne, the Arriége, the Ande, the Herault, the Vosges, and the Straits of Calais. M. Géruzet of Bagneres de Begorre (High Pyrenees) sent the most beautiful and varied marbles last year. The marbles of Aspan, the stalactite marbles, and the campanarante marbles were those most admired. M. Géruzet has set up on the Adour a marble work which has 150 saws constantly at work, besides ten rough saws for cutting out the blocks, seven lathes, one circular saw, a straight moulding frame, four machines for making flat slabs, and one machine which makes twelve rosettes at one time: he has obtained all the prizes usually awarded and the Legion of Honour. A saw mill has been set up at Perpignan, by M. Fraisse. At Mayenne, Mr. Henry, of Laval, has a factory where 230 blades are at work on black and veined marbles. Messrs. Landeau, Noyers, and Co., of Sable (Sarthe), work black and vein marbles by machinery of their own construction. The quantity of marble imported into France is 6,000 tons, valued at 20,000*l.*, and coming principally from Tuscany, being white statuary marble, and from Belgium being a madreporic gray and white marble, known as St. Anne's marble, and used for furniture, slabs in coffee-houses, &c. The value of French marble exported is 6,000*l.*

The value of building material wrought in France annually is estimated approximately at 2,400,000*l.*; of this amount 1,600,000*l.* or 2,000,000*l.* is the regular produce of quarries in constant work. These quarries are 18,000 in number, employing 70,000 men. The value of slate quarried annually is estimated at 80,000*l.*

EPISCOPAL CHAPEL AT WRINGTON.

An Episcopal chapel has lately been erected at an expense of about 1,000*l.* at Redhill, in the parish of Wrington, Somerset; Mr. Wilson, of Bath, was the architect. It is built in the early English style, whose prominent features are simple, elegant, and light, and whose decorative members being comparatively few, admit of its more general adoption for small churches, where the funds necessary for their erection are limited. For the amount expended, we have a quiet, unostentatious beauty in the arrangement of the interior of this building that could scarcely be expected. It receives light from graceful lancet windows, three of which, with stained glass, give a pleasing effect to the chancel. The roof is of wood, opened to the ridge-piece, and for its plain construction is particularly ornamental. At the entrance, on a platform of two steps, is an ably chiselled font of stone of appropriate character; and over the doorway is a tablet which records that "This chapel was erected in the year 1844. It contains 315 sittings, and in consequence of a grant of 80*l.* from the Incorporated Society for Promoting the Enlargement, Building, and Repairing of Churches and Chapels, and of a grant of 90*l.* from the Bath and Wells Diocesan Church Building Association, 250 of that number are hereby declared to be free and unappropriated for ever." There is, with the exception of the corbel heads without the porch, so much good taste displayed in the uniformity and completeness of this unassuming structure, that we regretted to find what is called a "handsome" stove placed in the centre of the aisle, with a black flue rising vertically to some height, and then running horizontally to make its escape through one of the windows, which has been disfigured for that purpose. We think, also,—but this is a subject which we must touch upon with the greatest diffidence—that had the chancel, which is paved with imitative encaustic tiles, been elevated one step, in point of practical utility alone it would have been better, from imparting a greater distinctness and dignity to the clergyman; and as from the communion table he proclaims the holy Commandments of God, they would not

be lessened in their solemnity, nor lose the force of their impressiveness, from his being raised above his congregation. We should deprecate any attempt to produce a renewal of obsolete forms, utterly inconsistent with the pure religion which, as Protestants, we profess, but even as a spiritual religion, it is requisite to maintain the principle of doing all things decently and in order, so that, by avoiding Puritanism on the one hand, and Popery on the other, we may enter into the deep tranquillity of the House of God with a sincere, zealous, and unquestioning faith, awake only to those gracious and sublime emotions of the soul which conduct us with good thoughts, kind thoughts, ennobling thoughts, to the observance of our highest and most benignant duties.—*Bristol Mirror.*

SUFFOLK CHURCHES.

TUDDENHAM ST. MARTIN.

Few villages in Suffolk can boast of a more picturesque situation than Tuddenham. Seated in the hollow of a deep and narrow valley, it is not perceived from the high table-land on which it is approached from Ipswich, until the traveller has reached the point of descent, when a fresh landscape breaks upon his view, and below, the intermingled red-brick, and more ancient timber-built houses, with their gardens, constitute the village of Tuddenham. Westward, the valley presents no remarkable attractions, but in the opposite direction are to be found some of the most pleasing views of Suffolk scenery.

The parish church, the first object of interest in most places, occupies a commanding station on the brow of the hill immediately overlooking the village. The large Norman doorway, on the north side of the nave, refers the earliest date of the present building to the tenth century; and though no other features of that style of architecture are now visible, it is most probable that the walls of the nave are of the same era. Occasional repairs have probably effaced some of the characteristics of the original design, which the introduction of larger windows more directly superseded. There are now four windows opening into this part of the church, but the tracery is of that meagre description which is commonly found to have been supplied to village churches in the fifteenth century. The accustomed entrance is now on the south side, where the doorway is of the same date as the windows we have just mentioned. In the interior, the visitor cannot fail to be struck with the simple yet graceful appearance of the ancient open timber roof, which, with the exception of the mutilated forms of saints and angels, bereft of their heads by fanatic zeal, remain uninjured and in good preservation. The entrance to the chancel is through a rude arch, without shaft or impost. This part of the building is probably of later date, as succeeding builders generally lengthened the chancels of their Norman predecessors. The door and side windows appear to have been substitutions for former work, and are of poor design; the east window, which is of three lights, the tracery formed by crossing the mullions and without foliations, was, till lately, the only indication from which it could be inferred that the present chancel might have existed in the 14th century. But the present incumbent, upon examining the walls of this part of the church, discovered, near the surface of the ground, the ancient piscina. Upon clearing away the rubbish with which it had been filled, it was found to consist of two arches, one on the face of the wall, the other occupying part of the recess of the side window. The design is bold and striking, the central shaft appearing to support the weight of the whole superincumbent wall. The position of these arches so near the ground, as well as the form of the east window, suggest the notion that the floor of the chancel was originally lower than that of the nave, a circumstance extremely rare, but which is here to be accounted for from the slope of the hill upon which the church is built. The tower is square, consisting of three stages, without buttresses. All the windows have the tracery defaced, and this destruction in the belfry story, which is so common a feature in our churches, we can refer to no other cause than the mischievous carelessness of those workmen who have inserted the timber frames for the bells. It is really much to be regretted that such a negligence has ever been suffered, which so often gives a fine tower a very unsightly appearance. The bells are five in number, and, from the inscriptions, were cast in 1655 by John Darby, whose name is similarly preserved in a very large number of the Suffolk churches.

The history of the erection of our parish churches is generally involved in obscurity; seldom have documents been preserved to shew through whose munificence they were erected, or enlarged, or ornamented. Armorial bearings are frequently the only traces which are left wherewith to identify the families whose names may be associated with the parochial history of former days. Such is probably the case with respect to Tuddenham. But on examining the western entrance, we trace the arms of the family of D'Avilliers, a shield charged with three escutcheons, a name well known to those who have interested themselves in Suffolk genealogy. These appear in the right hand spandril of the western doorway; on the left is a shield, bearing a plain cross, charged with five eschalops, but we know not to whom it may be referred.

The monumental inscriptions in the church are few. One records the decease of Richard Keeble in 1653, and several members of his family. This Mr. Keeble was a lawyer of some eminence, and his 'Reports' are at this day considered as a valuable contribution to the legal records of the country. Another is dedicated to the memory of John Sicklemore, Gent., Lord of the Manor of this parish, who died 1644, and was here buried with several of his family. The only other is an affectionate tribute to the memory of Isabella Wrattislaw, who died at the early age of 20. No date is given.

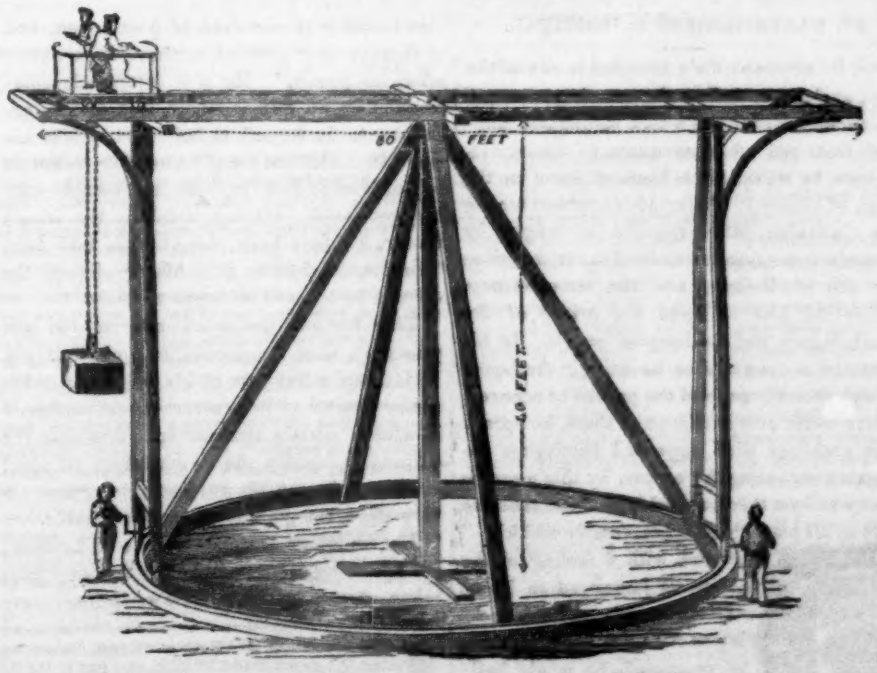
We are unwilling to refer to the state in which the interior of the building lately appeared, but we notice with great pleasure the improvement which has taken place. The north doorway, which had been contracted from its original dimensions by a poor insertion of a later date, has been restored, and a new and substantial door provided; the windows of the nave have been put in order, and their tracery repaired; and the fine open roof thoroughly cleaned. The unsightly and encroaching pews have been removed, and the ancient seats (of which a considerable portion remained in the church) have been reinstated. As more seats were required, the carving of new ones was entrusted to Mr. Ringham, of this town, who has executed them in admirable style, and in exact conformity with the rest. The rails for the communion-table have been executed by the same hand, with the same excellence of workmanship. Across the chancel arch stand the basement panels of the old rood-loft screen, the access to which was by a doorway now remaining in the south wall. The pulpit stands at the north-east corner of the nave, and is a very remarkable specimen. It exhibits a pattern of the decorative art of the middle ages, immediately before its extinction, when fantastic forms superseded the designs of a more chastened and correct taste. Indeed, there are indications of the approaching change in the workmanship of this pulpit, which, while they interest the curious, do not appear to offend the eye. This pulpit has also been restored by Mr. Ringham. A small gallery has been placed in the tower, in the room of those unsightly projections which are very often found in our churches, but neither compensate for their ugliness by any additional accommodation. The font stands on the right hand side of the south entrance, and is elaborately carved, and notwithstanding the defacements by the puritanical hatchet, is one of the best specimens of mediæval art in this neighbourhood. From the fragment of an inscription in the horizontal surface of the basement, it appears to have been the gift of Richard Silvestyr and his wife Agnes, about the year 1480.

The recent alterations in the interior have excited much interest amongst the parishioners, who have cordially seconded the views of their worthy pastor, by voluntary contributions towards the reparation of the church; and though some seceders from the Church of England have refused their aid, a better spirit has influenced others, and one, a landed proprietor, has been a very liberal contributor. Something yet remains to be done towards the renewal of the chancel, which, we hope, will not be neglected by the impropriator, and the church, thus completed, will unite the requisites of comfort, convenience, and neatness, with strict architectural propriety.—*Ipswich Chronicle.*

REVOLVING SCAFFOLDING USED AT THE NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.

In continuation of the article on timber scaffolding which appeared in our last Number, we are enabled, by the kindness of Mr. Grissell, to give our readers an engraving of the circular travelling crane, now in use for erecting the central, or ventilating tower, at the new Houses of Parliament.

It consists of a circular base curb, at the top of which is fixed a toothed rack. In the centre is fixed a vertical post, with diagonal braces, carrying a centre point, around which the travelling crane works, with its hoisting crab on the top. At the foot of each leg is inserted a toothed wheel, working into the rack, so that by means of winch handles the whole can be made to revolve. It is stated, that the saving in labour is very considerable, but that the saving as compared with the cost of constructing scaffolding is very much greater.



Revolving Scaffolding used at the new Houses of Parliament.

PRINCIPAL GATEWAY TO ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital is one of the most ancient, as well as the most important, of the numerous charities which distinguish England from all other countries in the world. Rahere, by whom it was founded, lived in the reign of Henry I. A curious document among the Cottonian MSS. (quoted at length by Malcolm in his *Londinium Redivivum*) describes the life of Rahere, and the circumstances which led him to build the priory of St. Bartholomew and the hospital near it. In his youth he is described as haunting "the howsholdys of noblemen and the palices of prynces; where under everye elbowe of them, he spread ther coshyngs with iapys and flatteryngs delectably anoynting the eevyes, by this mean to drawe to hym ther frendschippis," and took the lead at all plays "and other courtly mokk'ys." Becoming impressed with a feeling of the wickedness of his life, he journeyed to Rome as a pennace. Here he was overtaken by sickness, and being at the point of death, made a vow, that if he recovered, he would build "an hospitale in receation of poure men, and to them so ther gadered necessaries mynyster after his power." He was afterwards commanded by St. Bartholomew, in a dream, according to the legend, to build a church in his name in Smithfield; and recovering, returned to England to fulfil his vow, and comply with the command. Having obtained the king's favour, he first built the church, and then "an hospital house a litell lenger of from the chirche by hymself he began to edifie."*

The hospital remained attached to the priory till after the dissolution; when Henry VIII., in the last year of his reign, granted it a new charter of incorporation, and endowed it with a certain sum on condition that the citizens of London should contribute an equal amount. At the present time its revenue is very large, the good it effects incalculable.

The buildings escaped the Fire of London; but becoming ruinous, were for the most part taken down in 1729. Subscriptions were raised to rebuild it, and in 1730, the present structure was commenced from the design of James Gibbs, but was not completed before 1770.

The principal gateway, very accurately represented by the accompanying engraving, is of earlier date than the hospital, having been rebuilt in 1702, when Sir W. Prichard, Kt., was president, and John Nicoll, Esq., treasurer. The whole is of stone, and is in a good state of repair,—much better than the hospital itself. The figure in the niche is intended for Henry VIII., those on the broken pediment above it, are designed to represent Lameness and Disease. Originally this gateway was connected with buildings on either side, and did not profess to have any thing more than a street front. Lately its character has been altered by removing these buildings, and the result is not advantageous to the design.

In the ensuing number we shall give views of the quadrangle and the Giltspur-street gateway, and shall then be able to speak more at length of the architectural peculiarities of the hospital.

* Rahere's tomb is in the church of St. Bartholomew the Great close by; an interesting building, once part of the old priory.

BUILDER

FIRE DAMP—VENTILATION OF MINES.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.

The first evening meeting in the present year was held on Friday, the 17th instant, when Professor Faraday laid before the members some observations on coal mines, and the accidents to which the miners are liable, with especial reference to what is called the *goaf* of the mine.

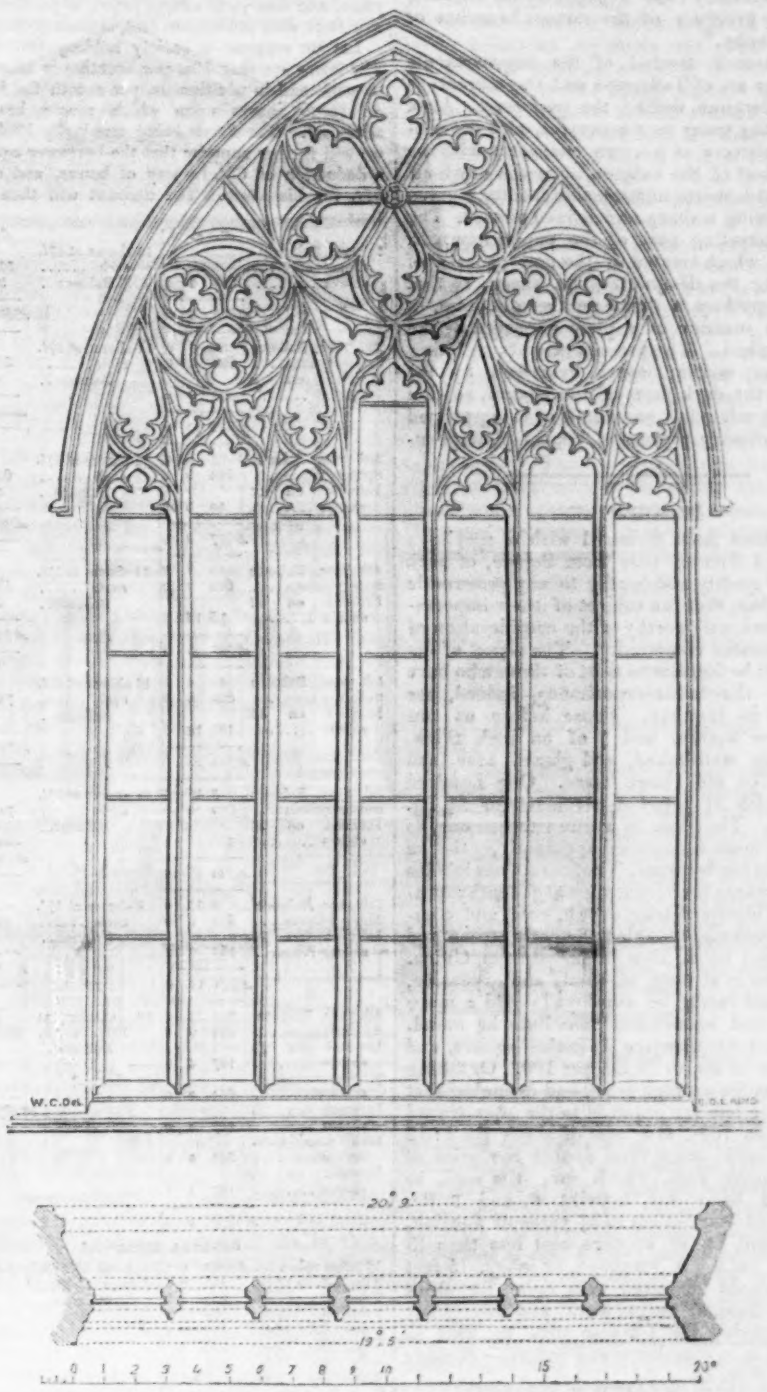
In consequence of the disastrous explosion in the coal mine at Haswell, where 95 men and boys were killed, he had been deputed by Government to proceed there, in conjunction with Mr. Lyell, and to make a report upon it. That report was before the public, and it was with the view of explaining some points in it that he came before them on that occasion. He did not profess to understand coal mines so well as those who had devoted all their time to the subject, but he did profess to understand Nature in some degree, and it was from this circumstance probably that Government had selected him for the inquiry. He would premise that the inquest shewed that no blame attached to any person in the late disaster; all precaution, so far as their knowledge went, had been taken, but certain observations had occurred to Mr. Lyell and himself which, if attended to, might, he thought, have the effect of lessening danger in future. He then described, by means of a black cloth stretched against the wall of the theatre, the appearance of a seam of coal, and the mode of working the mine. He shewed that having sunk a shaft down to the seam (in the present case 900 feet deep), a straight passage 5 yards wide was worked out of it, 25 yards forward; the roof being secured by props. A passage right and left of the same width, was then cut to the same extent, and then again returned right and left, so that ultimately the mine presented a series of masses of coal, 25 yards square, called pillars, each surrounded by a passage or way. They then began to work out one of these masses (the thickness of the seam in question was 4 feet 6 inches), and as they removed the coal, they secured the roof by means of props. When the whole of one pillar had been taken out, as they could not afford to leave the timber supports, they were withdrawn, and the superincumbent earth descended. This was called a goaf, and ultimately presented a heap of ruins of enormous extent. The goaf they examined covered 13 acres (an area once and a half as large as Lincoln's-inn Fields).

Leaving this part of the subject, the professor then described the nature of fire-damp, and shewed its properties by experiments with coal-gas, which, in most respects, resembled it. The gas which exudes in the mines becomes explosive when mixed with atmospheric air in quantities of not less than 5 of air to 1 of gas, or more than 14 of air to one of gas; with less air or more air there is no danger. The professor was of opinion that the coal-dust scattered about was licked up by the rush of air produced, in which case the combustion (as he shewed by experiment) was very different. Fire-damp is exceedingly light, and necessarily ascends to the highest parts. This he exemplified by various experiments, as upon this property was based the proposition he wished to enforce—namely, that the goaf is a receptacle for fire-damp, and by a variety of circumstances may be made to discharge part of its contents into the mine—for example, by change in the density of the atmosphere.

The ventilation of mines was effected by two shafts, in one of which was a furnace; through the rarefaction produced, currents were established which drew off the gas. To shew the size of the furnace at the mine where the accident occurred, he mentioned that a ton of coals was always in combustion. The professor then shewed by experiments with pipes communicating with a fire, how rapidly smoke was carried off in this manner, and urged, as the main object of his lecture, that all goafs should be ventilated as high as was practicable by means of pipes communicating with the furnace. This might be done in most cases at an expense of 50*l*.

There is no lecturer who can invest a simple subject with so much interest as Mr. Faraday, or more completely simplify an abtruse one. His illustrations too, never fail, and are always ready. His audience are not kept waiting while this bottle is filled, or that jar exhausted; preparation and explanation go on together, and the result is perfect.

CENTRE WINDOW IN WEST FRONT OF THE DUTCH CHURCH, AUSTIN FRIARS.



Plan of Window.

GOTHIC DETAILS FROM THE DUTCH CHURCH, AUSTIN FRIARS.*

The centre window in the west front, represented by the accompanying engraving, is a very good example of a window in what is termed the decorated style, which, as a general rule, may be called the architecture of the 14th century. The arch of windows of this style is usually equilateral (not always), and the tracery consists in the earlier specimens, of geometrical forms, circles, trefoils, &c.; and in the later examples is formed by wavy, flowing lines. In the Perpendicular style, which succeeded it, the mullions ran through the head in perpendicular lines, and the tracery took the same character; the arch became flatter, and ultimately lost the pointed form altogether. The perpendicular style in the same general way, as above stated, may be considered to belong to the fifteenth century. In windows of the early English style, which preceded the decorated, the arch, especially in the earliest specimens, is acute, and the opening long and narrow. This style belongs to the thirteenth century.

The window that forms the subject of our illustration is considerably larger than the aisle window figured in the last number of our journal, (as is shewn by the dimensions annexed), but is drawn to a smaller scale. The moulding of the cill is the same in this as in the aisle window; the section of the reveal, with its dimensions, is shewn by the annexed cut.

* See p. 30

SOCIETY OF ARTS.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JAN. 22—W. H. Bodkin, Esq., M.P., V.P., &c. in the chair.

Bennett Woodcroft and J. Havers, Esqs., were elected members.

The secretary read a paper by M. Claudet, "On the progress of the various branches of Photography."

The author treated of the improvements which the art of Talbotype and Daguerreotype have undergone during the past year. Also, mentioning many new processes, and describing a discovery of his own connected with the optical part of the subject, by means of which great and hitherto unattainable facility is given for obtaining a sharp and defined picture. The most interesting part of the paper, however, was that which treated of the new process of engraving the Daguerreotype image, so that it may produce a great number of copies, in the same manner as a plate engraved by the usual method. The process consists in biting away (by certain means described by the author) the dark parts of the picture, so that they may retain ink, and admit of being printed by the ordinary process of copper-plate printing.

FLOOR-TILES.

WE have been favoured with a specimen of glazed flooring tiles from Scinde, of such superior quality and beauty to any procurable in Bombay, that the subject of their importation seems well worthy of the consideration of the mercantile community. The aspect of the tiles must be familiar to most of those who have been on the Indus—specimens, indeed, are plentiful in Bombay. Those before us are 6½ inches square, and ¾ of an inch thick, admirably well-baked, and glazed blue and white, like old Dutch ware. One hundred will furnish 3½ yards of pavement for 2½ Rs. of price. The glaze is a true vitreous one, as perfectly made and applied apparently, as that on European earthenware. The floors of our lobbies and verandahs are here at present generally composed of blocks of trap, rough, cold, and comfortless-looking, though sufficiently strong and substantial, or of tiles imported from China. The stone is at once unseemly and expensive, and would rarely be employed could a more elegant and economical substitute be found. The Chinese tiles are 14 inches square, and cost from 15 Rs. to 25 Rs. per 100. Or taking 20 Rs. as the average price, and assuming that something less are required to the square yard than seven tiles, at a cost of about Rs. 1: 12 annas a yard—more than double the price of the Scindian tiles, which can, it is said, be imported here for betwixt 2 and 3 Rs. a hundred—equivalent to 3½ yards of flooring, which will, on an average, cost less than 13 annas a yard. A verandah, or lobby, 15 feet by 30, could be paved with them for about 70 Rs., chunam, pavior work, and all. They would exceed the Chinese tiles as well in strength as in cleanliness and beauty.—*Bombay Times*, Nov. 23.

BUILDING SOCIETIES, LOAN COMPANIES, AND SAVINGS' BANKS.

BY WILLOUGHBY WILTON.

(*Concluding Letter.*)

Snug. "You never can bring in a wall. What say you, Bottom?"

Bottom. "Some one must present wall."

MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM.

THE Editor of THE BUILDER has received a letter from "H. S." on the subject of our remarks in previous letters respecting building societies. As our object is truth, not victory, we most willingly receive any light which can be thrown on this abstruse subject. Acting on this principle, we will consider it our duty calmly and independently to admit and criticise such attacks as may be made upon our position, until we shall be shifted from it by numbers—not of assailants, but of truth-telling figures. But to cut this preamble short, the letter of "H. S." reads thus:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—I have read the letters of Mr. Wilton in your periodical on building societies, and although he has stated sufficient to act as a caution to the public, yet, as it appears to me, he has fallen into some errors, which needlessly make those societies appear worse than they would really seem to be, and consequently of greater disadvantage to the borrowers. Having no connection with any of these societies, I know nothing of their plan of operation, beyond what one may glean from their rather ambiguous prospectus; far from thinking, however, with your correspondent that a period of seventeen years is required, I am inclined to believe that a society may finally terminate in ten years, and also yield a large return of profit to those members, who become, in fact, lenders of money.

Let us suppose a society holding 100 shares. The terms are that 10s. per month per share shall be paid, and in addition 4s. per month for interest on those shares upon which money has been advanced. The shares being nominally 120*l.* each, we will further suppose that the borrower agrees to a deduction of 63*l.* by way of bonus, and obtains 57*l.* for his share. The account will then stand thus:—*

	£. s. d.		£. s. d.
1st year, Subscriptions of 100 shares	600 0 0	10 shares at 57*l.* each	570 0 0
		Balance ..	30 0 0
	£600 0 0		£600 0 0
2nd year, Balance	30 0 0	11 shares at 57*l.* each	627 0 0
Subscriptions	600 0 0	Balance ..	27 0 0
Interest on 10 shares	24 0 0		
	£654 0 0		£654 0 0
3rd year, Balance	27 0 0	11 shares at 57*l.* each	627 0 0
Subscriptions	600 0 0	Balance ..	50 8 0
Interest on 21 shares	50 8 0		
	£677 8 0		£677 8 0
4th year, Balance	50 8 0	12 shares at 57*l.* each	684 0 0
Subscriptions	600 0 0	Balance ..	43 4 0
Interest on 32 shares	76 16 0		
	£727 4 0		£727 4 0
5th year, Balance	43 4 0	13 shares at 57*l.* each	741 0 0
Subscriptions	600 0 0	Balance ..	7 16 0
Interest on 44 shares	105 12 0		
	£748 16 0		£748 16 0
6th year, Balance	7 16 0	13 shares at 57*l.* each	741 0 0
Subscriptions	600 0 0	Balance ..	3 12 0
Interest on 57 shares	136 16 0		
	£744 12 0		£744 12 0
7th year, Balance	3 12 0	8 shares at 57*l.* each	456 0 0
Subscriptions	600 0 0	Balance ..	315 12 0
Interest on 70 shares	168 0 0		
	£771 12 0		£771 12 0
8th year, Balance	315 12 0	22 shares at 121*l.* 13s. 9d.	2677 2 6
Subscriptions	600 0 0	Balance ..	0 1 6
Interest on 78 shares	187 4 0	100 shares.†	
9th year, Subscriptions	600 0 0		£2677 4 0
Interest on 78 shares	187 4 0		
10th year, Subscriptions	600 0 0		
Interest on 78 shares	187 4 0		
	£2677 4 0		

GENERAL ACCOUNT.‡

10 years sub.	£6000 0 0	78 sh. at 57*l.* each	£4446 0 0
9 do. int. on 10 sh.	216 0 0	22 do. 121*l.* 13s. 9d.	2677 2 6
8 do. do. 11 do.	211 4 0	Balance	0 1 6
7 do. do. 11 do.	184 16 0		
6 do. do. 12 do.	172 16 0	100	£7123 4 0
5 do. do. 13 do.	156 0 0		
4 do. do. 13 do.	124 16 0		
3 do. do. 8 do.	57 12 0		
78	£7123 4 0		

* The calculation here instituted has not the merit of novelty, though it may be original to its author. The same species of Dr. and Cr. account will be found in some of the pamphlets which have been published on building societies; and particularly in the "Proceedings of the Court of Common Sense," but with this difference that the author of that *brochure* gives it the title—"Calculation to shew what would be the duration of a society, if the shares were fixed at 150*l.* each, the monthly payments twenty shillings per share; the borrowers to pay five per cent. interest, or 12s. 6d. per share, and *to receive the full value of their shares without any deduction for premiums or discount*;" and proceeds as follows:—

Dr.	FIRST YEAR.	Cr.	
To Subscription, 500 shares at 12*l.*	6000 0	By 41 shares, taken up at 150*l.* each	6150 0
To Interest, 41 shares average 7½s.	153 15	Cash	3 15
	£6153 15		£6153 15

† The writer "H. S." supposes in all this that the borrower is liable only for 57*l.*; but from all we can learn—and we have asked the question besides in our letters, and it has not been answered in the negative—the borrowers are bound to pay, in full of all demands, 120*l.* per share; and it is this which constitutes the difference between the apparent and real duration of these societies, between 10 and 17 years.

‡ We would recommend "H. S.," who is quite competent to the task, to work out the several cases with these data:—

100 × 120 = £12,000	100 × 63 = £6,300
	100 × 57 = 5,700
	£12,000

These 6,300*l.* of bonus are, what? Are they the premium which has become a shadow of James Blackman, chairman of directors of the Lambeth Building Society? We again pause for a reply. And then let "H. S." say whether we have needlessly made these societies appear worse than he himself does.

10 shares pay each sub.	£60 0 0		
Interest for 9 years	21 12 0		
		£81 12 0	and obtain a loan at expiration of 1 year.
11 shares, pay each sub.	60 0 0		
Interest for 8 years	19 4 0		
		79 4 0	do. 2 do.
11 shares, pay each sub.	60 0 0		
Interest for 7 years	16 16 0		
		76 16 0	do. 3 do.
12 shares, pay each sub.	60 0 0		
Interest for 6 years	14 8 0		
		74 8 0	do. 4 do.
13 shares, pay each sub.	60 0 0		
Interest for 5 years	12 0 0		
		72 0 0	do. 5 do.
13 shares, pay each sub.	60 0 0		
Interest for 4 years	9 12 0		
		69 12 0	do. 6 do.
8 shares, pay each sub.	60 0 0		
Interest for 3 years	7 4 0		
		67 4 0	do. 7 do.
22 shares, pay each sub.	60 0 0	and double their capital in 10 years.§	

In their prospectus they say that the member only pays an interest of 4 per cent. on the loan. Were the member to receive 60*l.* upon his share, doubtless the interest at 4 per cent. would be exactly what the society charge him, viz. 4s. per month, or 2*l.* 8s. per annum; but this is a one-sided account, and without reckoning the value of his annual subscription of 6*l.* for 10 years, which at 4 per cent. amounts to 72*l.*, leaving him 12*l.*, after paying his debt of 60*l.* and interest at 4 per cent.‖ Let us take, for example, the first and last cases in our calculation. In the first case, a member joins the society, and pays an annual subscription of 6*l.*; he has appropriated to him at the end of the first year 57*l.*, for which he has to pay annually 2*l.* 8s. in addition to his subscription. At the expiration of

10 years, he will have paid	£81 12 0	
And have received from the society	57 0 0	
Paid for loan of 57*l.* for 9 years	£24 12 0	

If he had borrowed 57*l.* for 9 years at 4 per cent., and invested his yearly payments at the same rate of interest, his account would have stood thus:—

1st years' investment'	£6 0 0	
9 years do. at 8*l.* 8s. each	75 12 0	
Compound interest 4 per cent. on above	15 16 9	
	79 8 9	
Sum borrowed £57 0 0		
9 years' compound int. at 4 p. cent. 20 10 5		
	77 10 5	
	£19 18 4	
Or, in other words, he has paid for interest..	£24 12 0	
The difference between £20 10 5		
And 15 16 9		
	4 13 8	
Is the balance of interest at 4 per cent.		
Paying beyond 4 per cent.	£19 18 4	

In the last case a member has appropriated to him 57*l.* at the end of 7 years; at the expiration of 10 years he will have paid 67*l.* 4s., and received from the society 57*l.*—paid for the loan of 57*l.* for 3 years, 10*l.* 4s. If he had borrowed at the expiration of 7 years, 57*l.* for 3 years at 4 per cent., and invested his yearly payments at the same rate of interest, his account would have been—

7 years' investment at 6*l.*	£42 0 0	
3 do. do. 8*l.* 8s.	25 4 0	
Compound interest at 4 per cent. on above ..	12 6 6	
	79 10 6	
Sum borrowed £57 0 0		
3 years' compound int. at 4 p. cent. 6 16 9		
	63 16 9	
Excess of interest over 4 per cent. paid to the society	£15 13 9	

In fact, the borrowers are paying such rate of interest as the lenders are receiving, and this we find by calculation to be about 15 per cent., and doubling their capital in 10 years by monthly instalments.¶ —I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

H. S.

The *monthly* subscriptions, *fines*, and *forfeiture* of shares, tend to increase the profits above 15 per cent.

We have deemed it our duty not to disturb the calculations of "H. S." in any manner, but to leave them as he has conducted them, believing that without being checked, on his own premises, the computations of the interest are perfectly correct. "H. S." and all men capable of conducting a calculation of

§ The whole of this elaborate but ingenious process is detailed with great fidelity by "H. S.," but what end does it serve? It does not come near the amount we have shewn to be contributed by the unfortunate borrower.

‖ There is much of truth in this remark, but the whole calculation, which disregards the operation of the bonus or premium, and its terrific re-action on the borrower at the end of 10 years, or for a duration of 17 years, must be erroneous in the extreme.

¶ We have already so fully expounded the operation of these monthly instalments in our previous letters, that we can only refer "H. S.," as well as our readers, to those epistles, and leave the question as therein stated. We are not in any way interested in these societies, and have entered on the discussion because we know that "honest and intelligent men" are connected with them; and these we solicit to set the matter right, "that the public may be able to place confidence in them," and that the borrowers may be equitably dealt with.

magnitude similar to that we have presented from his pen must know that if we had in our previous letters followed the same course, our readers would have been confounded by the very appearance of the figures marshalled to bring out our results. But in all these cases the figures resemble the ingeniously constructed scaffolding which surrounded the Nelson Column, the Royal Exchange, or that which now surrounds the New Houses of Parliament. We removed the whole of our apparatus, and left the object single and entire to view. This, to drop the simile, is to take up the whole question in one proposition, which we word thus:—

To what sum would an annuity of 8*l.* 8*s. a year for ten years amount, when paid or received, and laid up at interest in monthly portions of* 14*s.* 8*d. each, the interest at the rate of* 5*l. per cent.* being converted into principal twelve times in the year?*

THE ANSWER IN ROUND NUMBERS IS ONE HUNDRED AND SIX POUNDS TEN SHILLINGS.†

Thus the whole of the calculation of "H. S." falls to the ground, if one share pays annually 6*l.* of contribution and 2*l.* 8*s.* of interest; or 8 guineas a year by twelve payments of 14*s.* 8*d.* each; and with this stringent condition in our calculation on the lenders, that the borrower has had 60*l.*, which he repays in ten years, with interest at the rate of 4 per cent.

If therefore this contribution will not make 120*l. in ten years, what annual, or from thence, monthly sum will make* 120*l.?*

We answer: *Nine pounds nine shillings and seven pence a year; or fifteenn shillings and ten pence a month;* improving the contributions at 5 per cent. compound interest; in all of which the borrower has no participation, as we have shewn already from the rules of these societies. Therefore, we conclude the borrower must make good the bonus, and become free some years after his financial bondage of ten years.

We had promised in a previous letter to notice also in our inquiries the operations of the small loan societies. But we desire not to be misunderstood here. We do not associate building societies with the nefarious schemes we are now about to handle.

The small loan societies differ essentially from all other modes of advancing money upon interest in Britain: they are *sui generis*—they make the food they feed on—they are established professedly to lend sums of 5*l.*, 10*l.*, &c., at 5 per cent. interest, to be repaid by weekly instalments proportioned to the sum borrowed.

Suppose some five idle men choose to get up one of these societies, one is manager, another treasurer, three are trustees, who become divisible also into clerk, messenger, and "Newman Noggs,"—the man who makes inquisition into and reports on the character *cum moribus bonis* of the borrowers' sureties. But these "five senses" have no money, nor do they require any; they are started by a "Ralph Nickleby," and his man "Noggs" is put in to look after the other fellows. You cannot now-a-days contemplate any one of these wretched concerns without finding at least one spy, one eaves-dropper—and in the third corner a *sourd et muet* placed there by the chief:—

> "Of spirits, likest to himself in guile
> To be at hand, and at his beck appear
> If cause were to unfold some active scene
> Of various persons, each to know his part."

Well, then, the directors—oh! the prostitution of language!—meet at eight o'clock at night, in a decently-furnished house, or it may be otherwise, as we shall presently see, and in an innermost snuggery sits the chief, the counterpart of your *Ralph Nickleby*. All persons wishing to become members pay the first week's contribution, and tender the names and residences of the parties they propose as sureties, and also the fees for Mr. Noggs making inquisition into their respectability, which fees go by the mileage scale of one mile, 1*s.*; not exceeding two miles, 1*s.* 6*d.*; and for every additional mile, the further charge of 6*d.* And then the chairman informs the applicant that notice will, in due course of time, be sent to him whether the sureties are approved of.

First applicant wants 5*l.* on loan, and pays for being allowed to ask for it 2*s.*, or the first week's contribution; and for the journey of Mr. Noggs from Paddington to Stepney, 3*s.*, 1*s.* for the book of rules, 1*s.* towards a deficiency found, and 2*d.* for office-rent, making in all 7*s.* 2*d.*

This is a tolerable entrance-fee before the man knows whether his respectable friends will be accepted as sureties, and the loan obtained.

Pray, gentle reader, is this according to law, and conformable with the Act of Parliament? However these may be, the man buttons on his great-coat, makes his bow, retires, and walks home, the Devil whispering in his ear all the way:—

> "Therefore, if at great things thou wouldst arrive,
> Get riches first, get wealth, and treasure heap,
> Not difficult"—

and the visions of "wealth amain" piled on the board-table, flickering brighter than the gas-lights to his eyes, and his ears listening as to the chairman's voice, as in broken accents it says of the society:—

> "Riches are mine, fortune is in my hand."

Enter No. 2 for a loan of 10*l.*—"Four shillings, Sir, first week's contribution (says the chairman); 9*s.* for the inquiries into your sureties, one being at Hoxton, another in Kennington, a third all the way to Nottinghill—in all 15*s.* 2*d.*" The man pays: "small consolation" to be now told, as the former, that he will hear in due course from the secretary.

The third party for a loan of 15*l.* now appears, and the same forms are gone through, and he feels

> "That fellowship in pain divides not smart,
> Nor lightens aught each man's peculiar load;"

for he pays 6*s.* as the first week's subscription, and all the *et cæteras* of No. 2. Or at the option of the member, to which option he receives a gentle hint from a touter in the person of Mr. Noggs, No. 1 for 5*l.* puts down his 4*s.*; No. 2 for 10*l.* takes 10*s.* out of his purse, and hands it to the secretary; and No. 3—"envy they say excites"—whisks 12*s.* on the table.

Next evening the cases are discussed; and some accepted, some postponed, and some rejected. In due course the parties and their sureties attend, *de nocte in noctem*, and the "promissory notes" are drawn, signed, accepted, and endorsed; and each gets a book, in which is entered, or to be entered, all the transactions of the loan, and the results of his wandering promissory notes. Suffice it to say, the parties are charged interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, from and for the time the money is advanced; charged too in the amount, and deducted from the money when advanced.

Now, though "Ralph Nickleby" appears the lender to the hundred borrowers, his coadjutors could manage the matter very well without him, for 50 subscribers would enable a society in four weeks to lend 10*l.*, since the society is not the lender, but merely the manager of the fund lent. This is the great secret, the moving spring in the operations of these widely-spread and ruinous societies, for the managers are paid so much for doing *improperly* what the contributors themselves could do economically and *equitably*.

Upon the principle of receiving, as from 50 members, their weekly quotas, these societies, if they have no backer as "Ralph Nickleby," are enabled to make loans of 10*l. ad infinitum*, the difference between what the borrower receives and what he pays being quite enough to pay expenses of management, and allow the "directors," as the needy scheemers style themselves, to pocket a handsome sum annually. We speak advisedly when we affirm, that for managing every loan of 10*l.*, which the borrowers contribute one to another, the directors pocket far more than people generally imagine; but we shall see. Besides, the interest is here illegally charged—we mean that the lenders charge the borrowers interest in place of discount, which makes an immense difference in these transactions. For example, if a poor man contracts for a loan of 10*l.* by weekly instalments of 4*s.* a week for 50 weeks, the loan is at first simply equivalent to the sum of five pounds two shillings for that time, or to two hundred and fifty five pounds for one week; and the true charge for interest would be about four shillings and eleven pence, whereas the lenders exact about seventeen shillings and sixpence by their process more than ought to be taken.

But we must now have done with both Building and Loan Societies.

Yet one word in defence of the savings' banks before we lay down our pen. In recommending building societies to the public, the secretary to the Tring Benefit Building Association, ventures a bold remark, to the effect, that "Persons desirous of joining a building society, have nothing to fear in regard to the safety of their money. These societies," he affirms, "offer a better security than savings' banks, or any investment of the sort. The security of savings' banks is only *visionary* at best; but building societies have real security for money advanced." That is to say, a small joint stock club at Tring, in Herefordshire, is broader-backed, stronger, and more secure than a savings' bank over which the most independent, wealthy, and influential men of a county, parish, or district preside whose funds are periodically invested with the Commissioners for the reduction of the National Debt. The ravings of this Bedlamite would deserve no consideration, did he not labour under the mesmeric influences which impresses members of building societies with the belief that, as to their freeholds—

> "Underneath are diamond-rocks,
> Topaz-boulders, ruby-blocks,"——

and past their doors run onward still

> "Golden rivers, silver streams,
> Richer sights than visit dreams."

We beg leave to recommend savings' banks, as banks of safety.

The miserable victims of the small loan societies, so hurtful and pernicious to the morals of the industrious classes, not only find no relief in the calamities to which they expose them, but by association with them prepare themselves for future unknown vicissitudes; while the humble man, who goes weekly to the savings' bank, may hope, by the blessing of Heaven, for a continuance of that prosperity which had enabled him in the beginning to call himself a "saving-man."

* The borrowers are charged 4 per cent.; we assume that the lenders can improve their contributions at 5 per cent.

† If we had computed the improvement of the money at 4 per cent. the amount would have been somewhat different.

Correspondence.

METROPOLITAN BUILDINGS ACT.

SIR,—It is much to be regretted that complexity or ambiguity should exist in such an important Act of Parliament as the above; but that it does exist, and in several of its regulations, cannot be denied. This was repeatedly pointed out during its progress through its several stages; and to improve the Bill, a postponement was suggested until the ensuing session;* but having lingered so long, and having undergone so many alterations, it was supposed by those having its management to be perfect in all its parts, and it was determined at once (late in the session) to pass it into a law.

In your last publication, in a note to your notice of some of the proceedings under its provisions, you state that "many of the builders and zinc-workers have been astonished at the interference of the district surveyor when erecting a funnel or smoke-pipe on a chimney-shaft! nevertheless, he (the surveyor) would seem to be justified. If it be 4 feet above the brickwork, *notice must be given of such work*, and the FEE *paid*, or the penalty *may* be incurred. See s. 13, and schedule F, art. chimney-pots, tubes, &c.

I must confess I was as much astonished at reading this note as the builders and zinc-workers must have been at a visit by the district surveyor, especially *with* the demand for a FEE.

Having carefully read over sect. 13, I find no mention whatever of *chimney-pots, smoke-pipes, or funnels*, but the section clearly enough particularizes *chimney-shafts and flues;* by referring to schedule F, you will find that chimney-shafts and flues are to be of brick or stone-work, and at least four inches thick; this, therefore, cannot mean, even by *implication*, a metal or any other chimney-pot or smoke

* In the reports made upon the Bill by the committee of master carpenters, published from time to time in THE BUILDER.

tube, but a little further in advance in the same schedule you will find the following regulations for "Chimney-pots, tubes, &c."

"As to earthen or metal chimney-pots, tubes, funnels, or cowls, of any description whatsoever, if such pot, tube, funnel, or cowl be higher than 4 feet above the brick or stone-work of the flue on which the same is placed, *then* it must be fixed 2 *feet* at the *least* into the brick or stone-work of the flue, *on which it shall be placed.*"

There can be no doubt but this is a very proper regulation in the affixing these tubes, and much to be preferred to the old and clumsy method usually adopted in piling brick-work upon a flange, and round the pot or tube; but that the Act requires any notice to the district surveyor for such a trifling work cannot be admitted; and less so that *any* FEE is payable therein. It is true that if a "*chimney pot, &c. higher than 4 feet, is not fixed at least 2 feet into the chimney-shaft and flue,*" that then (but not if properly constructed) the 14th and 18th secs. may be put into operation against the party committing the irregularity; both these sects. provide for the payment of all costs and charges to which the district surveyor may be put in rectifying irregularity; but he is certainly not to be paid *regular or irregular* by a FEE. I am borne out in this opinion upon reference to the amended Bill in the committee of the House of Commons, previous to the "*amendments and alterations*" proposed to the Committee of the House, and assented to by them. In that Bill, among a great many other objectionable fees, was a fee specially set forth of 10s. *for inspecting chimney-pots, shafts, funnels, &c. above a certain height.*

This and several other fees for trivial matters were opposed by the society I had the honour to represent, and I may venture to assert, that the result was an alteration and expunging of these unnecessary and objectionable inflictions. It is therefore to be exceedingly regretted that attempts are made or making in *many instances* to inflict upon the unwary a fee not *justified* by any part of the Act; and further, there is no question that the surveyor or surveyors exacting a fee for chimney-pots, smoke-pipes, tubes, &c., will assuredly bring himself or themselves under the operation of the 79th sec. of the Bill. In a word, the legitimate fees *demandable* will be found to be quite remunerative for any of the ordinary duties to be performed; for any special services provision is made to meet all such services by special fees. This being the case, and any costs or charges, expenses or loss of time, in compelling or putting in force its regulations and enactments, being also fully and amply provided for, and which charges are set forth in schedule L, in the Bill, it is to be hoped that charges will not be made upon the public not authorized by the legislature.

Dorset Place. H. BIERS.

[The above letter did not arrive in time for us to offer any observations upon it in the present number. We shall do so hereafter; the subject of it, as will be seen by our leading article, has already occupied our thoughts.—ED.]

MISTAKES IN ESTIMATES.

SIR,—The steady course you have always pursued with respect to professional disputes and grievances, and the decided stand you have always made against crooked dealings connected therewith, induce me to make known to you the particulars of a transaction in which I have been recently engaged, and regarding which I conceive that I have a just cause of complaint. In so doing, I trust that others may benefit by my want of caution, and by my loss. In the remarks upon St. Paul's Church, Herne Hill, which appeared in your publication of the 4th instant, it is stated that the amount of the estimate for the building was 4,500*l.*, and details are given to prove that the actual outlay did not exceed that sum. This agreement between the estimate and expenditure is generally a theme for well-merited praise, and deservedly so when the conditions of the contract are fairly carried out; but cases may arise, and in the one I am about to trouble you with, has arisen, when very different deserts to those of praise should be awarded. It was my lot to be the unfortunate sub-contractor for the masons' work of the church in question. My calculations were made from quantities supplied by Mr. Broomfield; after which an agreement was handed to me by the chief contractors, Messrs. Howard and Son, which, in an unguarded moment, supposing all was right, I signed. By this I undertook to do the work agreeably to plans and specifications furnished by the architect, and which I distinctly understood were the same or similar to those made use of by Mr. Broomfield. As I progressed with the work, I soon discovered that the quantities supplied by Mr. Broomfield were very deficient when compared with the plans and specifications supplied by the architect. I remonstrated with each party, but to no effect; Mr. Broomfield said that he did not take out the quantities himself, but copied them from the architect's book of dimensions. The architect said that he had nothing to do with it, and referred me to Mr. Broomfield. Messrs. Howard and Son said that I had the same quantities that were supplied to them, and that I must abide by my written agreement. Without troubling you with the full particulars of the loss which I contend has been most unjustly forced upon me, I will mention that one item in the quantities supplied by Mr. Broomfield was 322 feet of stone in quoins to buttresses taken at 7 inches by 5 inches, while in the plans and specifications supplied by Mr. Alexander, all the quoins were to be 9 inches by 5½ inches. I can prove that upwards of 1,000 cubic feet of stone have been used more than my calculations were made for, and this, together with the labour upon it, amounts to a very considerable sum. I shall feel obliged by your giving insertion to this communication in your columns; it is a transaction that ought to be generally known in the trade, as it may act as a warning to others.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM SUGDEN.

Gravel-lane, January 18, 1845.

[The circumstances stated do not seem to reflect in any degree on the architect. Mr. Sugden's remedy is against the party who took out the quantities.—ED.]

REPAIRS COMMENCED BEFORE JANUARY 1ST.

SIR,—I commenced some rather extensive alterations in a house in one of the metropolitan suburbs (removing old pots, rebuilding part of chimney, stuccoing the front, &c.) about the 15th of December last, and had finished the chimney before the scaffolding for the front was erected, which was this week.

I am applied to by the district surveyor for "a notice," which, as we commenced operations before the new Act came into force, I do not think proper to send.

You will oblige me by giving your opinion on this subject to your numerous readers, among whom is yours, &c., ALPHA.

January 17, 1845.

[This is an important question, and one which, as we desire our opinions to be regarded, we cannot definitely answer without the fullest information. One alteration or addition commenced before the 1st of January, and therefore not within the control of the Act, would not exempt from its provisions *another* alteration or addition commenced after the 1st, although in the same building. If the whole were included in one specification, and contracted for before the 1st of January, the matter would perhaps be open to question.—ED.]

SIR,—I am a journeyman carpenter, and want to make myself acquainted with architecture, drawing, &c.; but from the numerous works published, I do not know which to buy that would be most useful to me; and after reading your leader of THE BUILDER, January 4th, I resolved to seek your advice. Your opinion would oblige and serve

ONE OF YOUR SUBSCRIBERS.

32, Shaftsbury-street, City-road,
January 20, 1845.

[Our correspondent's inquiry is a more difficult question to answer fully in a few words than it may appear to be; but we recommend him to read Mr. Hosking's two treatises on Architecture and Building, published by Longman. He can perhaps borrow them, rather than buy. As to drawing, he would find facilities for learning the rudiments cheaply at one of the literary institutions—the Mechanics', for example, in Southampton buildings.—ED.]

SLABS AND HEARTHS UNDER THE NEW ACT.

SIR,—In the new Building Act, schedule F, it is required, that the hearth of every chimney must be laid and bedded wholly on brick or stone, or other incombustible substance, which must be solid for *a thickness of 9 inches* at least beneath the surface of any such hearth. Will you be kind enough to inform me how I am to manage that, as the joists in my specification are only 6 inches deep, and the floor 1 inch thick.—Yours,

Shadwell, Jan. 21, 1845. J. T. LOVELL.

[Our correspondent mistakes hearth for *slab*. The Act directs, as he correctly states, that the hearth (on which the stone stands, within the opening) shall be bedded on incombustible substance at least 9 inches thick: but regarding the slab, in *front* of the opening, it simply provides that it shall be laid on stone or iron bearers, or brick trimmers, without mentioning any thickness.—ED.]

Miscellanea.

CLERKENWELL IMPROVEMENTS. — At a meeting of the Middlesex magistrates held last week at the Sessions House, Clerkenwell, the report of "the committee appointed to ascertain if any and what alterations and repairs are necessary to be made in the Sessions House," was read. It set forth that the present building was entirely inadequate for the purposes of the county, especially for the business of the sessions, whether in regard to the accommodation of the prisoners, to the offices for the clerk of the peace, to the comfort of the judges, the jury, the bar, the press, or the public. Mr. Wilson, in moving that the report be printed and circulated amongst the magistrates, begged that they would all come and examine the present building, and, if they were to do so, he was satisfied they would instantly approve of the suggestions which the committee had made in the report as to a remedy for the evil. Mr. Rotch said the county would be much benefited by the adoption of one of the suggestions, which was that the present building should be pulled down and the site let upon building leases for the new street in continuation of Farringdon-street; and that a new Sessions House should be built on some waste ground belonging to the county, nearly opposite to the House of Correction. The motion was agreed to.

GROWTH OF TOWNS NEAR RAILWAY STATIONS.—A village of 200 houses and a population of 1,000 souls, has sprung up at the Wolverton station on the London and Birmingham Railway. A church and parsonage house have been built at an expense of 4,000*l.* We learn from the *Railway Record* that the railway company have given a room for the use of the Wesleyan methodists, and have established day and sunday schools, where 250 children are educated under the charge of the clergyman. A reading room and library, savings' bank, and musical club, have been established and are working satisfactorily.

PROPOSED RAILWAYS. — The Board of Trade are throwing overboard the new schemes by wholesale, but it remains to be seen whether or not their decisions will be allowed to pass unquestioned. It seems dangerous to entrust such powers as this Board seems to wield to a small number of individuals.

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. CANICE.—This, perhaps the most perfect and beautiful of the ancient cathedrals in Ireland, was lately threatened with destruction by fire, caused by the overheating of one of the flues. Mrs. O'Brien, the bishop's lady, first observed that flames were bursting from the roof of the cathedral, and gave the alarm. After about an hour's active exertion on the part of the military and the inhabitants, it was completely extinguished, without further injury having been sustained than the partial burning of a few rafters and the stripping off of some of the slates and lead.

SOIREES TO FELLOWS OF ROYAL SOCIETY. —Lord Northampton has issued his invitations for Saturday, February 22nd; March 8th and 15th; and April 5th.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL."— The buildings composing Greenwich Hospital, which have hitherto been unprotected from the ravages of the electric fluid, are about to be supplied with Harris's lightning conductors.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—A great many workmen are employed in constructing the temporary buildings intended as committee rooms for the approaching session of parliament. They are being built in what is termed the Speaker's Court of the old houses, and are about ten in number. These rooms have become necessary from the alterations made in the lobby of the House of Commons, which has been curtailed at least one-half, and the preparations now being made in the Speaker's drawing-room and adjoining rooms, which were used as committee rooms last year, those apartments, as well as the fine old dining-room, having to be prepared for the extension of the building of the new Houses of Parliament. The new committee rooms are so placed as to afford every facility of communication, especially to members at the house, by a passage through Westminster Hall and the Cloisters, leading from the lobby. Some months back it was stated that Bellamy's refreshment rooms were required to be removed to make the necessary alterations. They now occupy nearly the same site as before the fire which destroyed the Houses of Parliament. In the Cloisters presses are being formed for the papers of the Journal Office, as a temporary depository. The two large rooms in New Palace-yard are intended as courts for the Vice-Chancellors Knight and Bruce. The ancient apartment known as the Speaker's dining-room, is to be restored to its original architectural elegance, but the connecting buildings are being cleared away for the building of St. Stephen's Hall. The beautiful Gothic Cloisters are also to be renovated, and are to form a portion of the new houses.—*Morning Paper.*

NAWORTH CASTLE.—We are glad to learn that Naworth Castle is to be restored forthwith, in the style of the olden time, and that to Mr. Salvin, F.S.A., is confided the task. During the past week a quantity of magnificent oak timber, from Lowther-park, has been laid down for the purpose of being used in the work of restoration, and already are workmen busily engaged in preparing materials, and in repairing and strengthening various parts of the external walls. The great hall, which formed perhaps the most imposing feature of the old castle—in which, of yore, had feasted the retainers of "the noble Lords Dacre, who dwelt on the Border," and where, in later and more peaceful times, the tenantry of the barony were entertained—is to be furnished by a highly decorated ceiling of carved oak, somewhat after the fashion of that of Eltham Hall, in place of the "grim and antique portraitures" with which it was formerly crowned. A strong arch of freestone has been built for support, under the hanging eastern tower, the apartment in which, comprising the tapestries, bed-chamber, oratory, and library of "Belted Will," have suffered but little injury, and will still serve to afford future visitors an idea of what Naworth Castle was previous to the late lamentable fire.—*Carlisle Patriot.*

COMPETITION FOR BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES.—The committee have passed a resolution to the effect that no person is to be admitted to see the plans, or even to be informed of the number sent in, until the decision be made. They find difficulty in obtaining proper sites at a fair price; landowners have manifested their desire to follow precept and "take in the stranger." At a meeting of the committee, held last Wednesday at the London Tavern, among several plans submitted was one which met with approval, having for its object the making various divisions in the washing department, so as to preclude any party from being overlooked by a neighbour, and thereby prevent unpleasant observations or feelings with respect to the nature, quality, or quantity of the articles brought to be washed.

FINE ARTS IN BATH.—The second exhibition of the Society for the encouragement of the Fine Arts in Bath, will be opened early next month. It is the intention of the committee to award a premium of 20*l.* for the best picture exhibited.

STRASBURG CATHEDRAL.—The *Courrier du Bas Rhin* contradicts the report of a deviation from its perpendicular in the Tower of Strasburg Cathedral, and affirms that it rests as securely on its foundations as it did two centuries ago.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. BRUNEL, C.E.—An elegant service of plate, said to be worth 2,000*l.*, was presented yesterday week to Mr. Brunel by 257 subscribers connected with various railways, to commemorate their successful completion. The entertainment took place at the Albion in Aldersgate-street. Mr. C. Russell, M.P., chairman of the Great Western railway, presided, and was supported by upwards of one hundred of the subscribers. Mr. Saunders, the secretary, in the course of the evening announced that the differences between the Great Western and South Western railways had been amicably adjusted.

CORRUGATED IRON ROOFS AT PEMBROKE DOCKYARD. — Messrs. Fox, Henderson, and Co., are now erecting nine iron roofs over as many slips in Pembroke Dockyard. They are remarkably light in appearance. The iron principals are of the same shape as the carpentry introduced by the late Sir Robert Seppings, in the construction of his wood roofs. The covering will be corrugated iron. If these roofs answer, of which there is little doubt, it is reported that other slips of larger dimensions will be similarly covered. Within the last year the dock-yard has been increased about 14 acres, making an area of nearly 80 acres. In the new part, two large building slips have been formed. There is also an extensive pond for the immersion of elm timber, and it is generally thought that much durability would be given to English oak by a similar process, before it is put into a ship, a system adopted by the late Sir R. Seppings. The foregoing works have been executed by Henderson and Co. Large additions are making to the smithery. A building for Nasmyth's steam-lift hammer, &c. These buildings are in the hands of the contractors for the iron roofs. A great many sheds, for the preservation of timber, plank, deals, &c., have been built.

THE NATURAL SYSTEM OF ARCHITECTURE, AS OPPOSED TO THE ARTIFICIAL SYSTEM OF THE PRESENT DAY.—Mr. W. P. Griffith, F.S.A., has issued a prospectus of a work under this title, the object of which is to set forth the principles which guided the formation of the Grecian Temples (the circumstances which regulated their proportions), and to shew the connection between ancient architecture and music.

NEW CHURCHES.—At a meeting of the society for promoting the enlargement, building, and repairing of churches, held last Monday, grants were voted in aid of the erection of new churches for the districts of Wyke, in the parish of Birstal, near Halifax, North Rode, near Congleton; Salford, near Manchester; East-end Finchley, Middlesex; Byley, near Middleton, Cheshire; St. James, Congleton, and Neut Head, near Penrith.

IMPROVED DWELLINGS FOR AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS.—Forty-two acres of excellent freehold land, most conveniently situated between the Wilford and London roads, have been bought by the members of the *Ruddington Land Allotment and Provident Fund Society*, the purchase to be completed and the land entered upon at Lady-day next. It is intended to erect 160 five-room cottages for the members, two and two, upon each half-acre. The moneys from the sick clubs, and those small sums belonging to private individuals will be withdrawn from the savings' banks, to be invested in the purchase, bearing an interest of 4*l.* per cent. per annum. Any person is allowed to subscribe, in shares of 5*l.* each, but none permitted to have more than 20 shares. In this way, the working men will have the use and profit of their own money, in addition to the interest. Each cottage will have a back door, garden, office, pigstye, and covered cesspool, for the reception of all drainage and refuse of the family, so that nothing unseemly, offensive to the senses, or injurious to health will be met with here.—*Derby Mercury.*

FIRE BRICKS IN STOVES.—The stoves in Lloyd's rooms at the New Royal Exchange are said to give great heat with much economy. The economy arises from the use of fire-lumps, which are placed at the back of the grate. These fire-lumps are slow conductors of heat, which is very powerfully radiated over the apartment by them, and they retain the heat much longer than metallic bodies, and to such a degree, that they impart a considerable warmth to the rooms many hours after the fires have been extinguished.

THE FATAL ACCIDENT AT THE PHŒNIX-PARK.—The fatal accident which lately occurred in the park caused the greatest sensation in the neighbourhood. It is a matter of surprise that more damage was not done both to life and property, considering the position the houses are in, and the sudden burst of the accumulated waters on them. The following is the finding of the coroner's inquest:—"We find that Mary Fox, Margaret Fox, Pat Fox, and J. Coyne were accidentally drowned by means of an embankment at the pond in the Furry-hill, Phœnix-park, giving way, when the water rushed into the room where they were, and did then and there drown them. And the jury further say that said embankment, built or caused to be built by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, was built in an insecure and insufficient manner, and wholly incapable of supporting the body of water therein confined; and that such insecurity and insufficiency was the cause of the accident; and the jurors beg to call the attention of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests to the great injury and loss of property sustained by several poor persons through the negligence of the servants of said Commissioners of Woods and Forests."—*Globe.*

NEW PIER AND BASIN AT DEVONPORT.—The foundation-stone of this immense work was laid on the 14th of May, 1844, since which time 52,000 cubic feet of stone have been set, and a great extension of dam has been effected for the purpose of building the invert for the caisson at the basin entrance. The foundation of these works over a considerable space is at a greater depth from the coping than was ever known in a work of a similar nature, it being no less than 68 feet 6 inches, which is 8 feet deeper than the lowest foundation of London-bridge; consequently the greater is the risk of the security of the coffre-dam at Devonport than it was at London-bridge. The strata of the foundation is hard slate rock. On the east side of the basin, and leading into it, two large docks will be found, capable of receiving the largest class ship. These will be made partly from the docks Nos. 1 and 3, intended to be broken up. The dock No. 1, which will be thus converted, is the oldest in the dockyard. From a copy of an old drawing, it appears that it was made about the commencement of the 18th century.

THE SMOKE NUISANCE IN MANCHESTER.—It is yet too early to speak with any accuracy of the amelioration of this long-endured nuisance; but so far as we have been about the streets of Manchester and Salford, in both of which boroughs the statutory provisions against smoky chimneys came into operation on Wednesday week, we are inclined to think that there is a considerable improvement. Indeed, we know that various apparatus for consuming smoke have recently been fitted to the furnaces of a number of manufactoring establishments in both towns, and it would be a libel on these to suppose that no good effect had resulted from them, or from the increased watchfulness and care rendered obligatory by the local acts. The nuisance committee of the Manchester Council have given three months' grace to parties offending, and will begin to enfore the penal provisions of the Police Act "from and after the 1st of March next."—*Manchester Guardian.*

HESSLE CHURCH.—Some further improvements in this church have just been completed. The noble arch connecting the tower with the nave was some time since opened, thereby extending the church to the extreme west, and affording better and increased accommodation in free seats to the parishioners. And during the last week a very handsome window of stained glass has been put into the west side of the tower. The window, which is partly after the design of some in the Temple Church, London, has been very ably and satisfactorily executed by Mr. Barnett, of College-street, York. Few parishes can now boast of having a neater or more comfortable church than Hessle, nor have any, during the last few years, undergone more alterations that have tended so much both to improve the sacred edifice, and also to accommodate those worshiping therein.—*Hull Packet.*

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—At the anniversary meeting, held last Tuesday evening, Mr. Walker was re-elected president for the ensuing year. A change had been contemplated.

REMOVAL OF ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH, WESTMINSTER.—Towards the close of the last session of Parliament a report was ordered to be printed, made by the select committee to whom the petition of the rector, churchwardens, and vestrymen of St. Margaret's, Westminster, for aid towards repairing the church, was referred. The report is an interesting document, and contains a recommendation for the removal of St. Margaret's Church from its present site. The incongruity of the church (the committee declare) in its style of architecture and its proximity to Westminster Abbey, have been frequently noticed and lamented. They express their unanimous recommendation "that the church of St. Margaret's should be removed from its present site, and they have reason to think that a new churchyard or cemetery in some less populous situation might be purchased at a very moderate expense; and that it might be possible to obtain a portion of land not far distant from the present site, where the church could be rebuilt in a great measure from the present materials.—[Churches should not be pulled down without the gravest consideration, and for most cogent reasons.—ED.]

IMMENSE STONE.—The Peckforton Quarries have for some time been in full work, and we understand that the stone for all purposes is of the very best quality. Some little time ago an immense stone was raised in the quarry belonging to Mr. Tollemache; it was 54 feet long, 18 feet 6 inches wide, and 5 feet deep. It was cut up in blocks for the baronial castle now in course of erection by Mr. Tollemache, at Beeston. We are informed that the stone was fairly lifted out of its bed. — *Chester Chronicle.*

TYPHUS FEVER.—We have said that this pestilence has many favourite lurking places as well known to our learned physicians of the Fever Hospital as their own names. Where are they? In the aristocratic vicinity of Belgrave or Grosvenor Squares? Alas! no. Would to heaven the fever would follow the fashion and migrate westward, if only for a single season.—Imagine but one fashionable street or square in the predicament of a fever district in Whitechapel, with not a house, nor a single room in a single house without its fever patient. What a sensation it would produce! What learned consultations as to the cause, what paragraphs in the newspapers, what searching inquiries into the state of the drainage, what indignant denunciations of the Commissioners of Sewers, what abuse of the landlords! The patriots of both houses would lose no time in bringing the matter forward, and we should have a second edition of the *qui tam* actions. The witty divine who wished to immolate a member of the Episcopal bench to stop a railroad abuse, would be delighted with such a practical application of his principle. But, unfortunately for the cause of social improvement, the fever has vulgar tastes and loves obscure localities, such as Rosemary Lane, and other low parts of Bethnal Green and Whitechapel. "The streets, courts, alleys, and houses, in which fever first breaks out, and in which it becomes most prevalent and fatal, are invariably those in the immediate neighbourhood of uncovered sewers, stagnant ditches, and ponds, gutters always full of putrefying matter, nightmen's yards, and privies, the soil of which lies exposed, and is seldom or never removed. It is not possible for any language to convey an adequate conception of the poisonous condition in which large portions of both these districts always remain, winter and summer, in dry and rainy seasons, from the masses of putrefying matter which are allowed to accumulate." This description, though written some few years since, still remains true to the letter. Again: "In every district in which fever returns frequently, and prevails extensively, there is uniformly bad sewerage, a bad supply of water, a bad supply of scavengers, and a consequent accumulation of filth; and I have observed this to be so uniformly and generally the case, that I have been accustomed to express the fact in this way. If you trace down the fever districts on a map, and then compare that map with the map of the Commissioners of Sewers, you will find that, wherever the Commissioners of Sewers have not been, there fever is prevalent; and, on the contrary, wherever they have been, there fever is comparatively absent"—*Medical Times.*

ANCIENT RESERVOIRS. — The immense works which were made by the ancient kings of Egypt, for receiving the waters of the Nile when it overflowed, are well known. But there never was a more stupendous work of this kind than the reservoir of Saba, or Merab, in Arabia Felix. It was a vast lake formed by the collection of the waters of a torrent in a valley, where, at a narrow pass between the mountains, a very high mole or dam was built. The water of the lake so formed had near 20 fathoms depth; and there were three sluices at different heights by which the plains below might be watered. The city of Saba, or Merab, was situated immediately below the great dam: a great flood came and raised the lake above its usual height; the dam gave way in the middle of the night; the waters burst forth and overwhelmed the whole city, with the neighbouring towns and people. The remains of the eight tribes were forced to abandon their dwelling, and the beautiful valley became a morass and desert. This fatal accident happened before the time of Mahomet, who mentions it in the Koran. See also "Sale, Prelim. sect. 1, and Niehbuhr, Descript. d l'Arabic, p. 240."—*From Lowth's Notes on Isaiah, ch.* 1.

HAWKSHEAD CHURCH.—This fine ancient edifice is about to be greatly beautified in the forthcoming spring. An altar-window is to be put in at the cost of nearly 100*l.*, and a new and powerful organ to be erected. A covering for the altar was lately received by the rev. vicar as a present from some ladies who visited the church last summer. It is a very splendid and costly affair, richly embroidered with gold.—*Westmoreland Gazette.*

Tenders.

TENDERS delivered for Re-pewing Leverington Church, Wisbeach.

	To be executed in Fir.				in Wainscot.		
Thomson	£215	0	0	..	£268	0	0
Bennett & Son	279	10	0	..	318	0	0
Ellis	275	0	0	..	360	0	0
Batersham ..	349	0	0	..	398	16	2
Richmond ..	355	0	0	..	456	0	0
Freeman	314	0	0	..	474	0	0

Another tender was received too late, the amount of which did not transpire.

NOTICES OF CONTRACTS.

For the erection of the Railway Works between Leeds and Bradford, including fencing, earthwork, masonry, roads, and permanent way.—William Clarke, Secretary, Hunslet-lane Station, Leeds. January 27.

For the erection of a New Pauper Lunatic Asylum at Clifton, near York.—Messrs. Scott and Moffatt, Architects, 20, Spring Gardens, London; or Mr. J. Holtby, Low Ousegate, York. January 28.

For the execution of Works on the Chester and Holyhead Railway.—1st. A distance of eight miles, or thereabouts. 2nd. A distance of twenty-two miles, or thereabouts. 3rd. A Tunnel through the promontory of Penmaen Back, near Conway.—George King, Secretary, 62, Moorgate-street. January 29.

For the Execution of Works on that part of the Blackburn and Preston Railway extending from Blackburn to Pleasington, being about 3¼ miles in length.—Peter Sinclair, Secretary, Blackburn. January 29.

For the Compo and Plasterers' Works, both external and internal, of four houses now erecting in Brandon-terrace, Yarmouth. — Mr. Farrant, Victoria Hotel, Yarmouth. January 29.

For the supply of Wrought Iron Rails and the requisite number of Chairs for about 15 miles of the Southport and Euxton Junction Railway. The weight of rails to be from 60lb. to 70lb. per lineal 2 yards and 15 feet lengths, equal to from 1,500 to 1,800 tons of wrought iron, and about one-third of that quantity of cast iron.—Woodcock and Part, Solicitors, Wigan. January 31.

For erecting the Works of the third division of the Main Line of the Great Southern and Western Railway, being 11 miles, 6 furlongs, and 75 yards in length. Also for the first division of the Carlow branch, being 10 miles, 7 furlongs, and 160 yards; comprising excavation, embankments, bridges, culverts, &c.—William Taylor, Secretary, 3, College Green, Dublin. February 1.

For the erection of Alms' Houses in Foundation-street, Ipswich.—Mr. J. M. Clark, Brook-street, Ipswich; or Mr. Notcutt, Solicitor, Ipswich. February 1.

For the formation of 4 Miles 56¼ Chains (single line) of the Ashton, Stalybridge, and Liverpool Junction Railway.—John Jellecorse, Secretary of the Manchester and Leeds Railway Company, Palatine Buildings, Hunt's Bank, Manchester. February 3.

For the works required in erecting certain Farm Buildings at Badley Hall, Essex, and for alterations and additions to the dwelling-house.—Mr. George Sergeant, 27, Queen-street, Colchester; or Mr. John Eagle, Badley Hall. February 3.

For the erection of a Bridge, called White Bridge, at Grasmere, near Ambleside, Westmoreland.—Mr. George Robinson, Bridge Surveyor, Kendal; or Mr. Daniel Donaldson, Ambleside. February 4.

For the construction of the several Stations and other Buildings on the York and Scarborough Railway.—Mr. Andrews, Architect, York; or Mr. George Baker, Secretary, Railway Office, York. February 5.

For the erection of a Steam Boat Pier at the Quay on the north-east side of Blackfriars' Bridge, also for building a Decked Lighter or Dumby.—Town Clerk's Office, Guildhall. February 6.

For one Pleasure Carriage, four Milk Trucks, and fifty Box Waggons, with drawing and buffer springs, for the Manchester and Birmingham Railway.—Mr. John Latham, Secretary, London-road, Manchester. February 6.

For erecting and completing the Lower Sluice and Sluice-Pit at the top of the Eau, Brink Cut, about 4 miles above Lynn.—Messrs. Walker and Burges, 23, Great George-street, Westminster; or Mr. George Game Day, Clerk to the Middle Level Drainage Commissioners, St. Ives. February 10.

For the erection of New Buildings in Pembroke College, Oxford.—Plans, &c., prepared by Mr. Haywood, Architect, may be seen at the Master's House. February 11.

For the erection of two Fever Wards in the workhouse at Slough.—C. P. Barrett, Clerk of the Union, Eton. February 11.

For a supply of Railway Fastenings for the Great Southern and Western Railway, Ireland.—Mr. William Taylor, Secretary, 3, College-green, Dublin. February 17.

For the supply of 11,000 feet of nine-inch cast-iron Pipes for a new line of Aqueduct to be laid in the Island of Malta.—Vin. Casolani, Collector of Land Revenue, Office of Land Revenue and Public Works, Valletta, Malta. March 31.

COMPETITIONS.

The Committee for Building a Chapel at Holloway are desirous to receive Designs for their intended building. The style to be Gothic. The Committee pledge themselves to select for their Architect the gentleman whose design they shall prefer.—George Brooks, Esq., 1, Lansdowne-place, Holloway. January 31.

Plans and estimates are required for a Workhouse, to contain about 1,180 persons. The whole to be done in a plain and substantial manner, without any expensive embellishments. The plans and architects' estimates to be sent to Robert Mercer, the Clerk of the Clifton Union, Pennywell Road, Bristol, on or before the 17th of February next, and the Board of Guardians will adjudicate on the 28th. The architect producing the best plan in the estimation of the Board will be employed at a sum not exceeding 5 per cent. on the outlay, and a gratuity of 25 guineas will be given to the architect producing the second best plan in the opinion of the Board.

NOTE.

We shall be glad to receive information from Publishers of all New Books on the subjects whereof we treat.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"James Pulham," and "One of your Readers," *received.*

"An Architect and Subscriber's" *letter about Chimney-pieces in Keene's Cement, is too palpable an advertisement for insertion.*

"R. K." *objects, in a sensible letter, to our brief remarks on Mr. Nixon's statue of William IV. He may rest satisfied that we give no opinion without due consideration. We shall probably accede to his wish, and "examine the work in about a fortnight hence, when it will be complete."*

"Charles Newnham" *is thanked for his good opinion. The advantages of railway travelling not "to the select few," but the community at large, are now so fully understood, that no such obstacles as he would impose would be permitted.*

"W. J. D." and "Mr. Gliddon."—*Any irregularity in the return of communications which has occurred must be attributed to the death of the late editor. Inquiry shall be made.*

"Scrutator."—*Next week.*

"Bernan's History and Art of Warming and Ventilating" *received.*